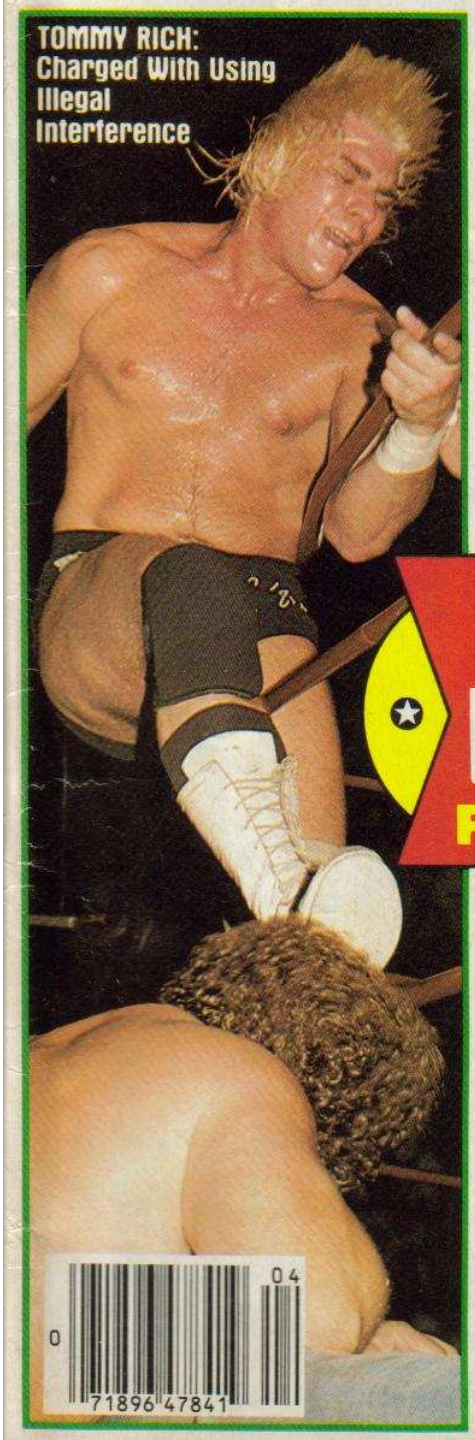
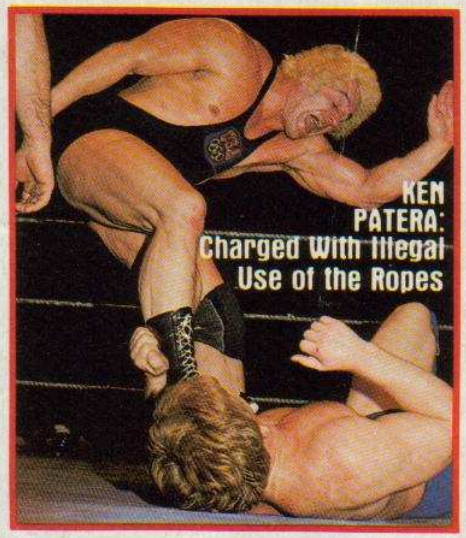
SPORTS REVIEW SERIES

WINTER 1980 47841 $1.25

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



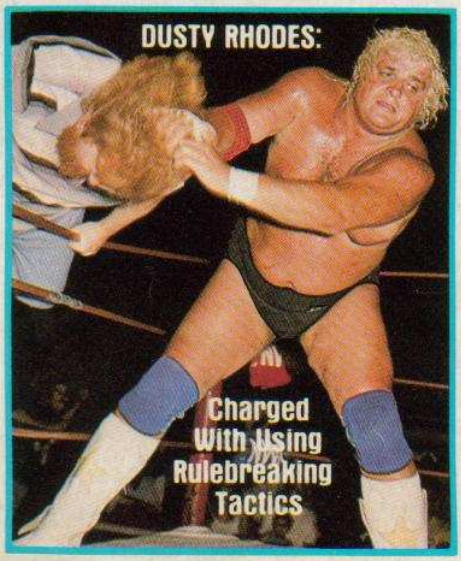
TOMMY RICH: Charged With Using Illegal Interference



KEN PATERA: Charged With Illegal Use of the Ropes

AUSTIN IDOL: Charged With Using Foreign Objects

THE MEN WHO MUST BE BANNED FROM WRESTLING



DUSTY RHODES: Charged With Using Rulebreaking Tactics

0 71896 47841 04

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND
1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
2—HULK HOGAN
3—KEN PATERA
4—PAT PATTERSON
5—IVAN PUTSKI
6—TONY ATLAS
7—PEDRO MORALES
8—TOR KAMATA
9—RICK MARTEL
10—ANGEL MARVILLA

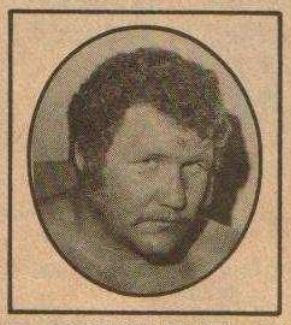
AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: VERNE GAGNE
1—NICK BOCKWINKEL
2—SUPER DESTROYER II
3—DINO BRAVO
4—MAD DOG VACHON
5—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
6—JOHN STUDD
7—CRUSHER
8—GREG GAGNE
9—JIM VALIANT
10—ADRIAN ADONIS

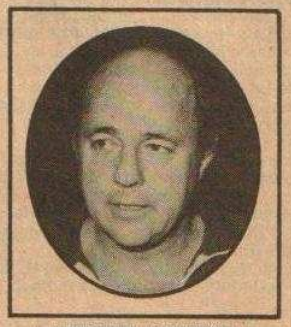
MOST POPULAR

1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
2—ANDRE THE GIANT
3—DUSTY RHODES
4—BOB BACKLUND
5—MR. WRESTLING II
6—RICK STEAMBOAT
7—BUGSY McGRAW
8—MIL MASCARAS
9—IVAN PUTSKI
10—AUSTIN IDOL

BOB BACKLUND



HARLEY RACE



VERNE GAGNE

DUSTY RHODES

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE
1—DUSTY RHODES
2—RIC FLAIR
3—BARON VON RASCHKE
4—TED DiBIASE
5—KEN PATERA
6—HUSSEIN ARAB
7—MR. WRESTLING II
8—MIL MASCARAS
9—TOMMY RICH
10—KEVIN VON ERICH

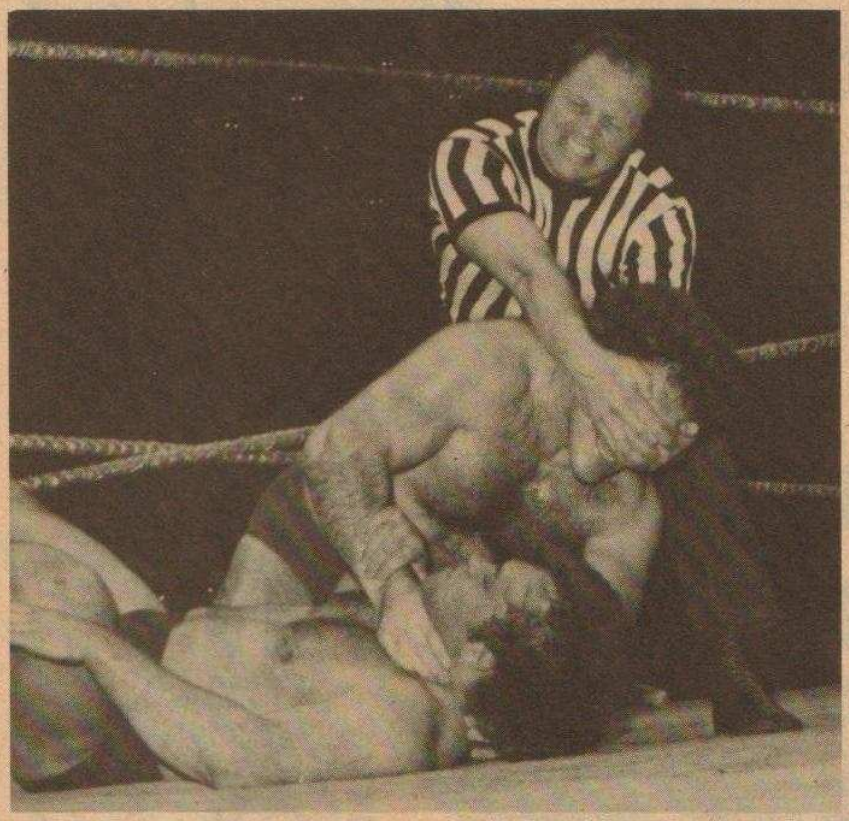
TAG TEAMS

1—JIMMY SNUKA & RAY STEVENS
2—THE SAMOANS
3—VERNE GAGNE & MAD DOG VACHON
4—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
5—THE ASSASSINS
6—BRYAN ST. JOHN & STANLEY LANE
7—MR. HITO & MR. SAKURADA
8—IVAN KOLOFF & NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
9—DAVID & KEVIN VON ERICH
10—BUZZ SAWYER & TONY BORNE

MOST HATED

1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
2—TERRY FUNK
3—ERNIE LADD
4—BARON VON RASCHKE
5—HULK HOGAN
6—KEN PATERA
7—NICK BOCKWINKEL
8—MARK LEWIN
9—HARLEY RACE
10—GREG VALENTINE

FAN FORUM



Reader Paula Newton feels that the Bruno Sammartino-Larry Zbyszko feud has become ridiculous. Five-year-olds can handle their problems with more maturity, she writes.

Send Letters To:
FAN FORUM
WRESTLING SUPERSTARS
BOX 38
ROCKVILLE CENTRE,
NY 11571

GONE TOO FAR

I think this problem between Larry Zbyszko and Bruno Sammartino has gone too far. I've seen five-year olds handle problems like this with more maturity. Although I can see both sides and don't blame or hate either one, I think this whole mess is getting a bit ridiculous.

Let's get this thing over with (and it would help a lot if other wrestlers would mind their own business) and let it die in peace, okay?

Both of you are too good to let this tie you down and disrupt everything, and I think both of you know that.

PAULA NEWTON
Cinnaminson, NJ

PERFECT?

I wish people woud stop giving Bryan St. John and Stanley Lane a bad rap. Garvin and Brisco should stop complaining and act like men. St. John and Lane, by their brilliant comebacks, have shown their arrogance and confidence are well-founded and proven.

I wish we had a tag team of men like St. John and Lane in our area. They are perfect.

PAUL ZONDERVAN
Allentown, PA

DIAMOND'S A COMER

I've always liked to keep my eyes open for up-and-coming rookies. First it was Tommy Rich, then Steve Travis and Terry Taylor. Now someone's even better than them. Guy by the name of Don Diamond. Young, swift, smart, not to mention very good-looking.

Diamond has the fans right here in the ring with him. His looks won't hurt him or his climb to the top, but it's his talent that'll make him number one.

So watch out, wrestling, Don Diamond is on the way up. And he's not stopping until he gets to the top.

BECKI RUTHERFORD
Augusta, GA

(Continued on page 48)

A WOMAN'S VIEW OF BRUISER

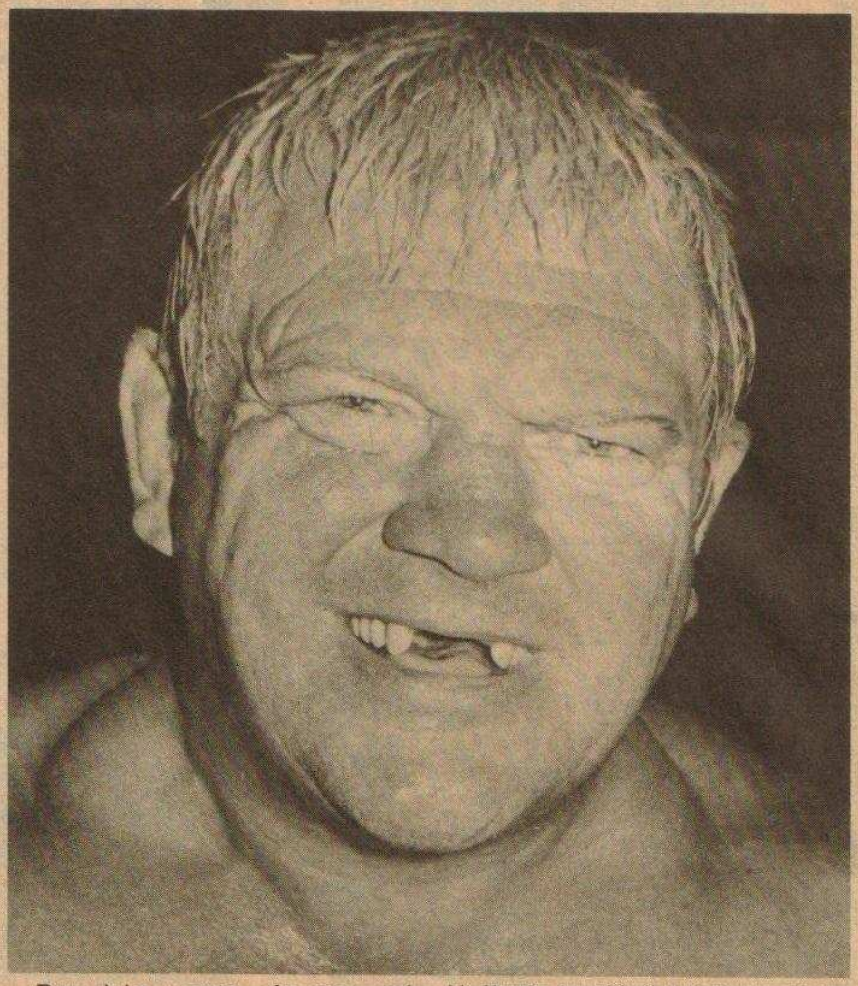
By Liz Hunter

YOU MAY THINK I'm crazy. Many of my friends do. Of course, these are the friends who think caviar is just fish eggs and the best wines are Manischewitz. It takes patience and intelligence to learn to appreciate the best things in life.

As far as I'm concerned, one of the best things in life is Bruiser. There's something so powerfully sexy about him that I'm enthralled every time I see him wrestle. Like Lee Marvin and Charles Bronson, his grizzled features and strong body are incredibly exciting to watch.

Like all really attractive men, Bruiser is never at rest. He's a lion who's earned his supremacy over the pride. Even when he's sitting down, there's an energy emanating from him that cannot be ignored. Look at any photo accompanying this article. The electricity can neither be understood nor denied.

Even women who don't think they find Bruiser attractive are really under his spell. Watch him when he walks into a ring. He struts with a sense of confidence and purpose that has women staring in awe. They may not admit it, but Bruiser is getting to them. You can see it in their eyes.



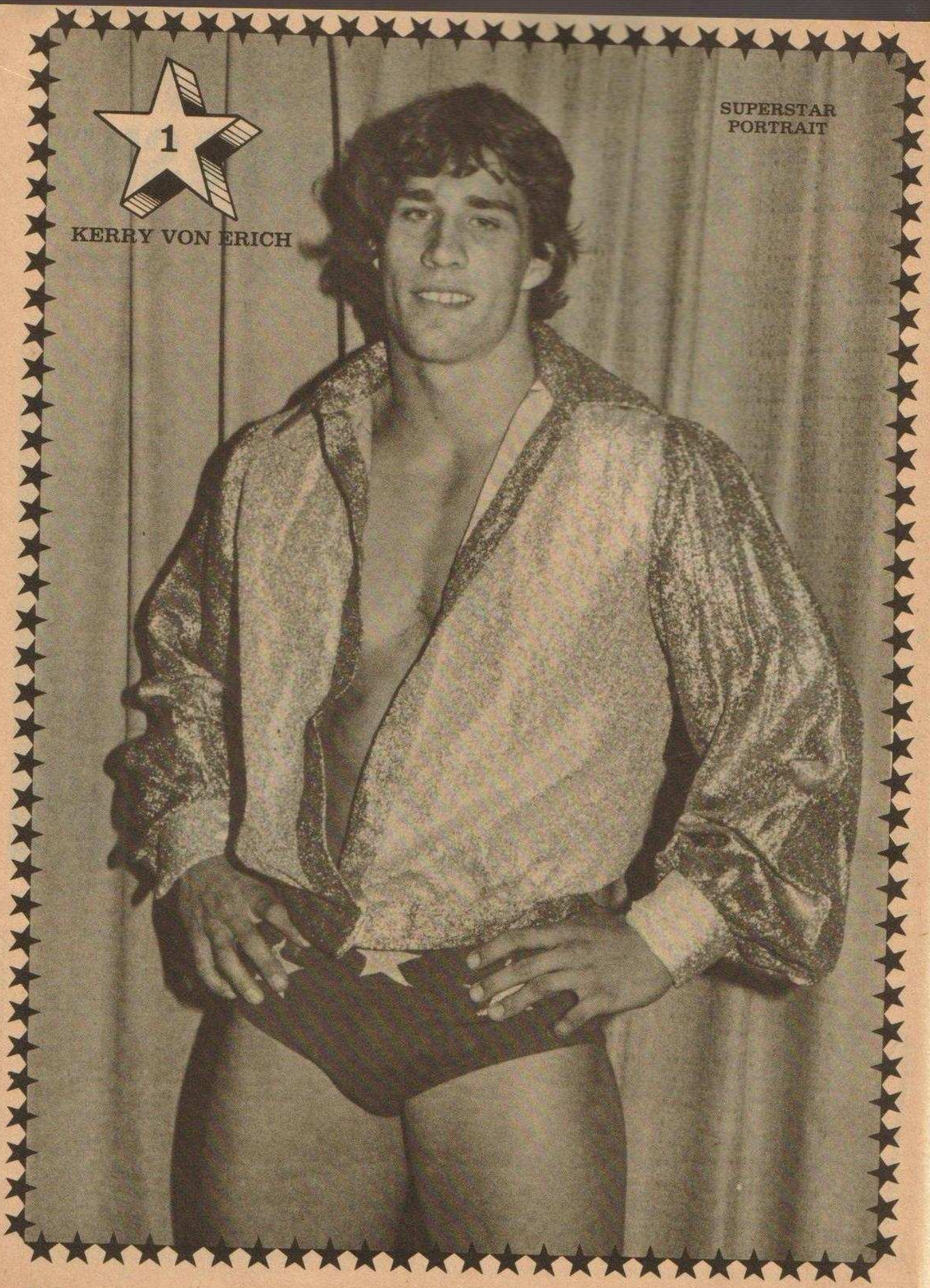
Liz Hunter is attracted to Bruiser in the same manner that she's attracted to Lee Marvin and Charles Bronson.

By his own force of personality, Bruiser is elegant. Real elegance is a man totally comfortable with himself, sure of his place in the world. By that definition, Bruiser is the most elegant man in wrestling. Women sense that, even if they don't admit it.

In the ring, Bruiser is a fantasy come true. He may not be obviously graceful, but every movement flows with its own force. He is his own man,

(Continued on page 50)

Throughout his illustrious career, Bruiser has been scrutinized by the very best in professional wrestling and raked over the mat coals by the very meanest. Yet it took a woman's perspective to illuminate the hidden traits of Bruiser, one of wrestling's all-time greats


1
KERRY VON ERICH
SUPERSTAR
PORTRAIT

Early's skill and cunning make it possible for her to flip mat star Maria Laverne hard to the canvas. Early's ability and beauty insure her a bright and successful future in wrestling.

PHOTOS BY BILL BEACH

EARLY DAWN SHINES IN THE WEST

She's young, she's beautiful, and she's one of the most accomplished wrestlers Texas has ever seen. Early Dawn is girl wrestling's rookie star!

THERE'S A SPECIAL excitement watching a rookie destined for greatness. When that rookie wrestler happens to be a beautiful woman, each time she enters an arena it is a special event.

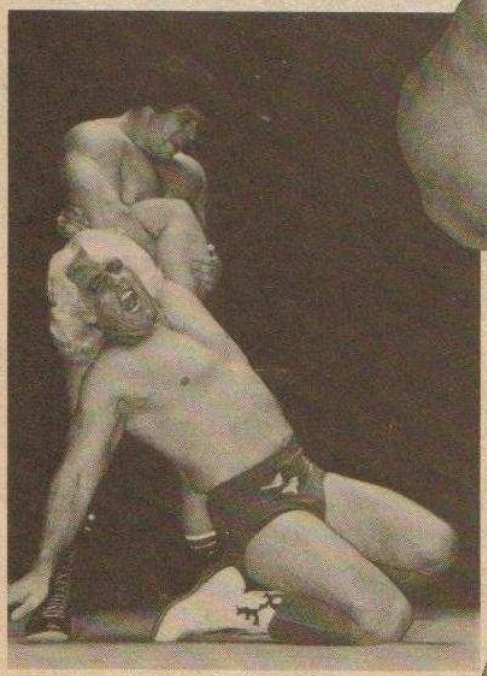
The woman's name is Early Dawn, a particularly apt monicker for a young lady quickly approaching wrestling excellence. Although she spends most of her time wrestling in Texas, word has spread throughout the country about this dangerously lovely young woman.

Chances are she'll not be able to remain exclusively in the southwest too much longer. Her faithful following has grown to such an extent that soon the entire nation will

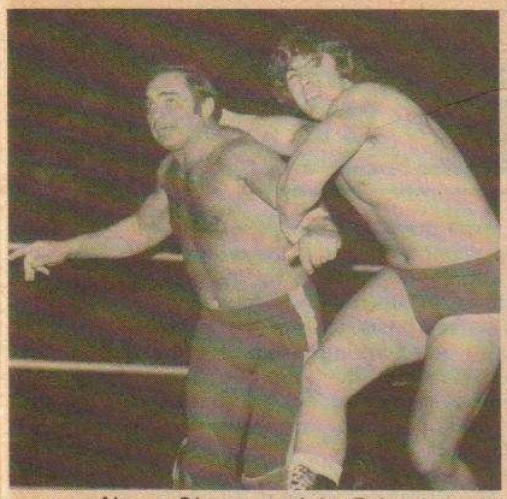
(Continued on page 64)

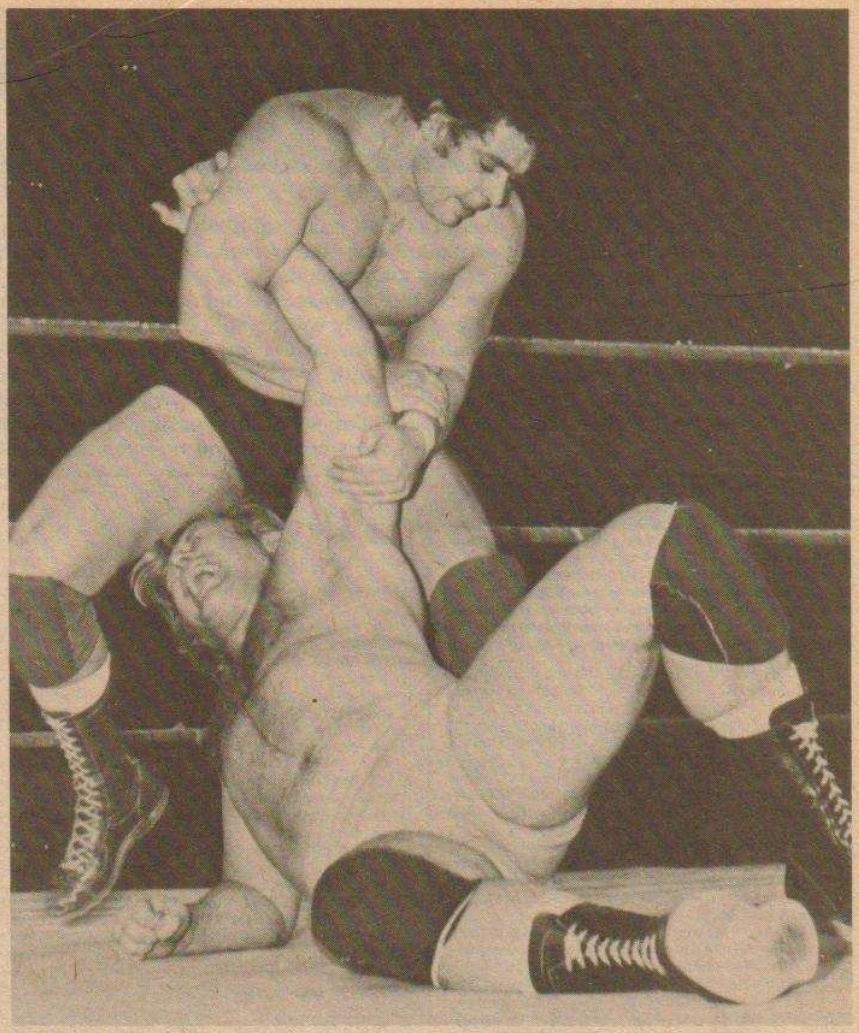
On the following pages, Dino Bravo's entire wrestling life is revealed through a series of illuminating photos. These photos capture the essential Dino Bravo, the man behind the boots and trunks, the man who loves his fans almost as much as he loves wrestling

DINO BRAVO'S PERSONAL PHOTO ALBUM

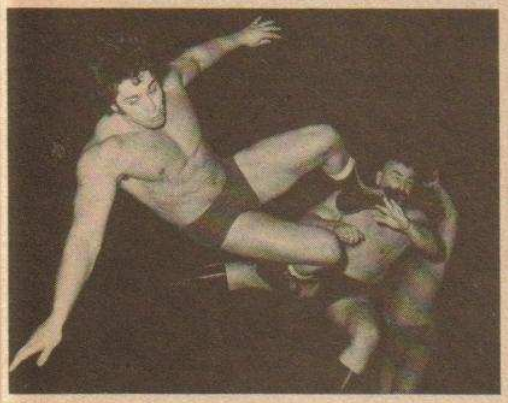


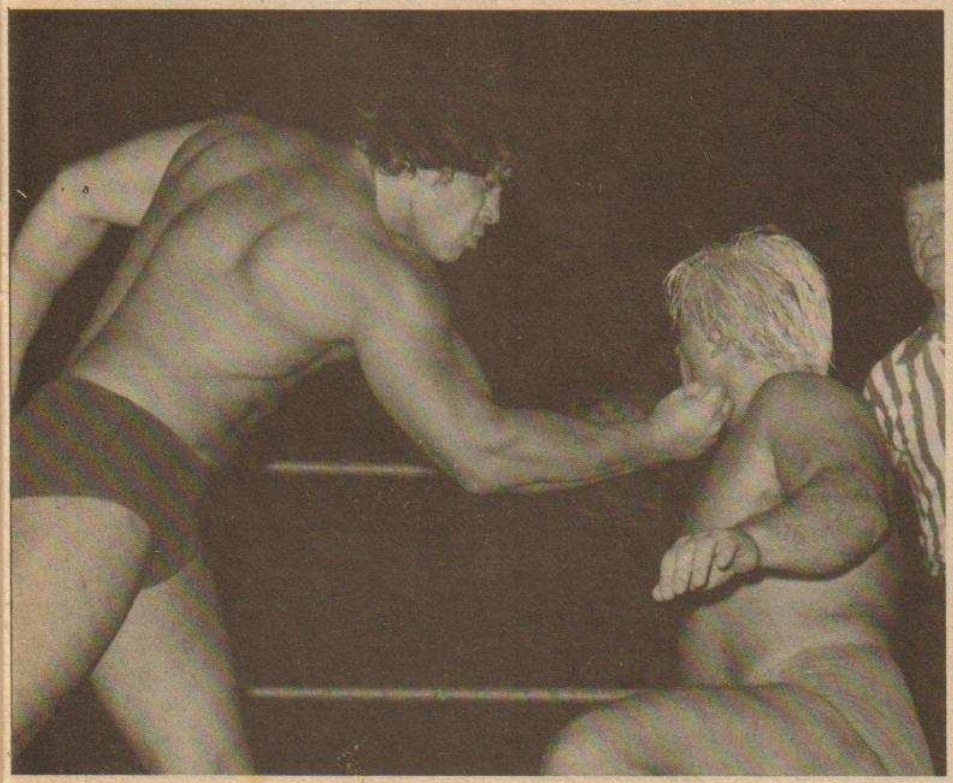
Bravo's armbar brings howls of pain from Ric Flair during Ric's rulebreaker days. The two are now good friends.





Above: Dino runs John Tolos into the opposite turnbuckle. Right: Dino maintains the upper hand against Nick Bockwinkel. Below: Gito Mongol catches a dropkick on the chin.



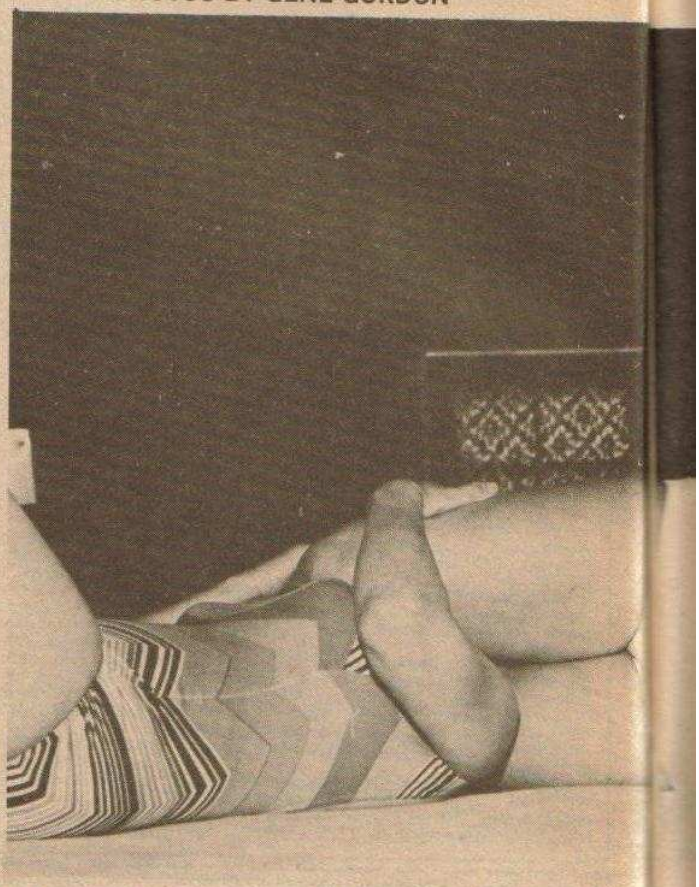


Left: Bravo lands a right to Buddy Robert's jaw. Below: Meeting Andre the Giant was one of the biggest thrills of Dino's life.

(Continued on page 54)

SHOT FIVE TIMES AND LEFT FOR DEAD...

PHOTOS BY GENE GORDON



ANN CASEY'S COMEBACK

Ann Casey has come back from the dead! And in this exclusive story Ann reveals why she's been away from wrestling and why she's determined to battle her way back to the top

THE FANS WAITING for Ann Casey to wrestle in Columbus, Mississippi, on the night of September 17, 1973, were quite disappointed when it was announced the popular mat star would be unable to appear.

But what the fans didn't know was that at approximately the same time the announcement was being made, Ann, with five bullets inside her body, was struggling for her life!

Ann had been shot while stopped in her car at an intersection. Somehow, even she's not sure, she managed to drive a mile onward to a service station where help was summoned.

"All I remember about that trip is that I felt I was dying all the way. It was like I was drowning in my own blood!"

That she didn't die is a miracle. For when she was rushed to the operating room at Lowndes Hospital in Columbus, doctors discovered one lung had collapsed, her liver had been punctured, and her left thigh had almost been blown to pieces! She had been shot with hollow point bullets, the type which mushroom on impact.

The race to save her life was like something out of the movies. A Mr. Frye jumped right into action to summon an ambulance and the sheriff. "To him," Ann noted, "I owe a special thanks."

But there were others as well.

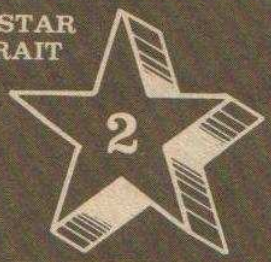
There was Dr. Gilbert Spencer, whose reputation in saving gunshot victims is known throughout the South. There was Dr. Henry Laws, an internal organ specialist at the University of Alabama Medical Center, who practically reconstructed Ann's liver, which had

(Continued on page 62)

Ann (left) flashes a smile for our photographer during a training session. Almost daily training sessions with wrestling friends like Sue Green (below) have helped Ann round back into form after being away from the sport she loves. Sue, along with other close friends, make it a point to help Ann train whenever they get the chance.

'S DRAMATIC TO WRESTLING!

SUPERSTAR PORTRAIT



HARLEY RACE

THE MEN WHO MUST BE BANNED FROM WRESTLING!

KEEPING THESE FOUR men in the same room all day nearly wrecked our offices. But Editor-in-Chief Peter King and Managing Editor Bill Apter are dedicated journalists. They knew every side had to be represented. That's why Mr. Wrestling II, Arnold Skoaland, Bobby Heenan, and Fred Blassie spent the day discussing, debating, and arguing over this special section, "The 20 Men Who Must Be Banned."

Each of these wrestlers were subjected to a list of charges and evidence of their crimes. And each was allowed to speak on his own behalf. After sifting through such information, the four-member panel arrived at a decision. The wrestler's respective federation will be notified and suspensions recommended.

In some cases, all four agreed upon the verdict. However, in many instances, King and Apter intervened and cast the deciding vote.

All the top wrestlers in the world are in this special section. It's one thing for a man to call himself great. Or the press to hang flowery labels on him or the fans to worship him. Every great grappler must surmount the black-and-white criticism.

You, the fans, will be the final judge.

A balanced panel of top wrestling experts gathered to discuss repeated accusations leveled by one wrestler against another. Only by impartially deciding the validity of such accusations would we, in good faith, print the results of this disturbing and shocking special section

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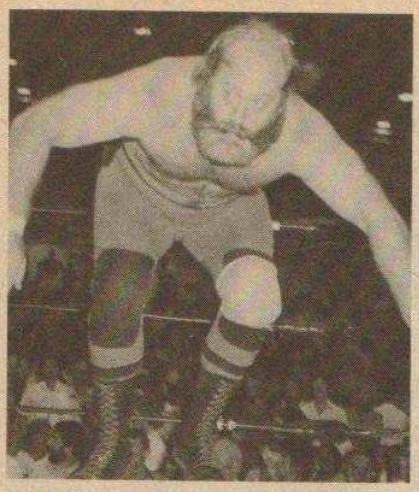


BUGSY McGRAW

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK)

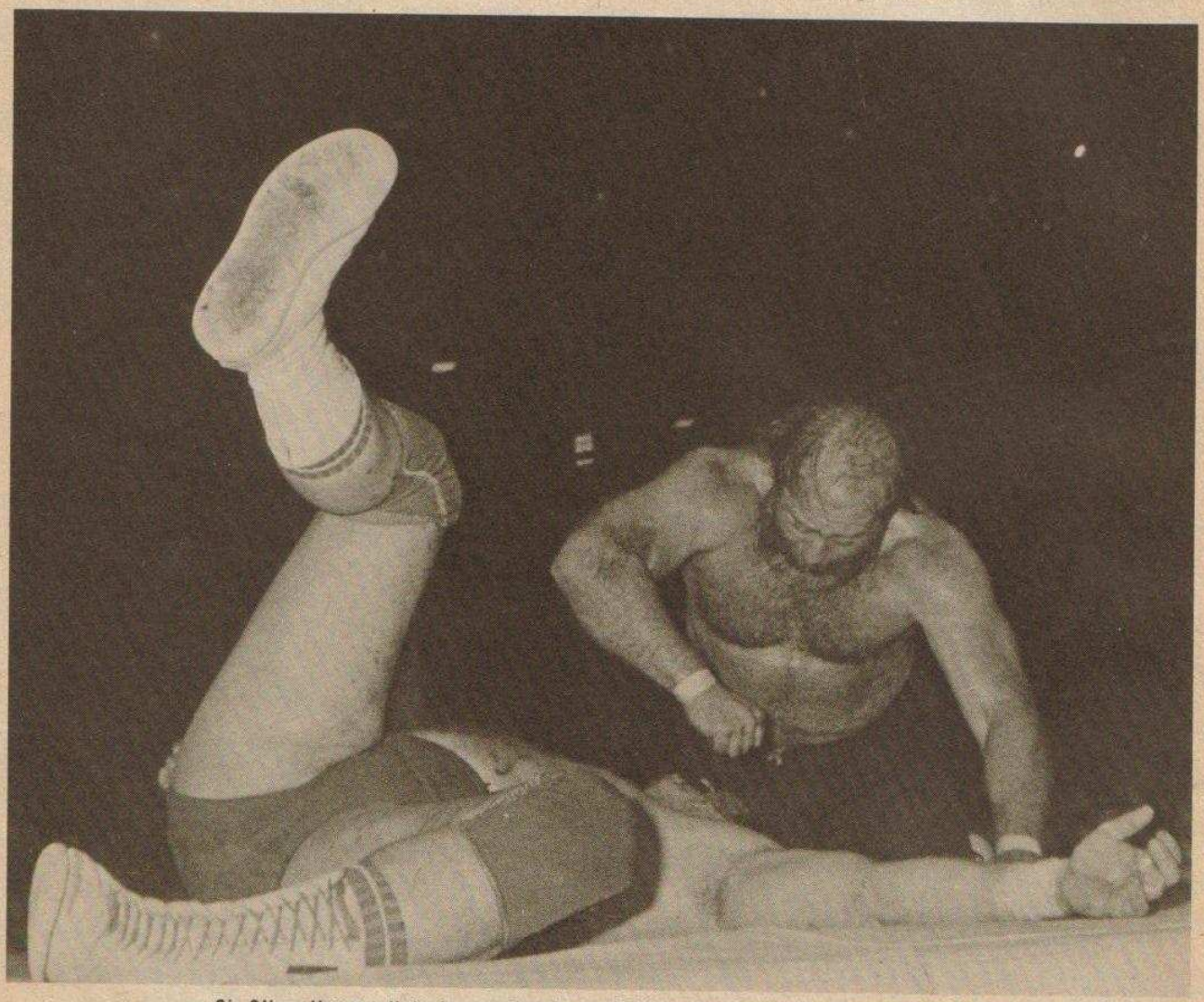
Dangerous emotional instability forms the basis of this complaint. Supposedly, McGraw cannot tell right from wrong. His ring behavior borders on demented paranoia. He froths at the mouth. He must be spoon-fed by a nurse. He cannot dress himself. He sits in the dressing room eating raw liver with mustard, all the while insisting creamed spinach is his favorite because he likes Popeye the Sailor. In sum, this complaint charges Bugsy McGraw should be committed for his own safety and the safety of his opponents.

HIS DEFENSE

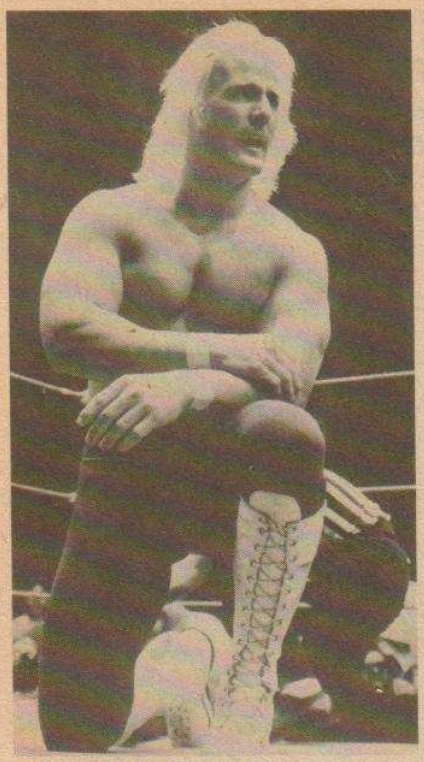
"I cannot accept the words of men determined to destroy me and my country and our way of life. They must all be destroyed. All of them. They know I have the secret to their destruction and will use it. That is why they pursue me, forcing me to avoid restaurants and other public places. And I cannot even buy my clothes in a normal store because their agents attempt to choke me. All my food must be specially prepared for me. I live on the edge of death. But so do they."

THE VERDICT (Final decision by King and Apter)

Bugsy McGraw must undergo a complete psychiatric examination. And if he is determined to be of sound mind, his accuser must be suspended.



Sir Oliver Humperdink charges that Bugsy McGraw has reached a dangerous level of emotional instability. "I cannot accept the words of men determined to destroy me and my country and our way of life," McGraw responds.



AUSTIN IDOL

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by BARON VON RASCHKE)

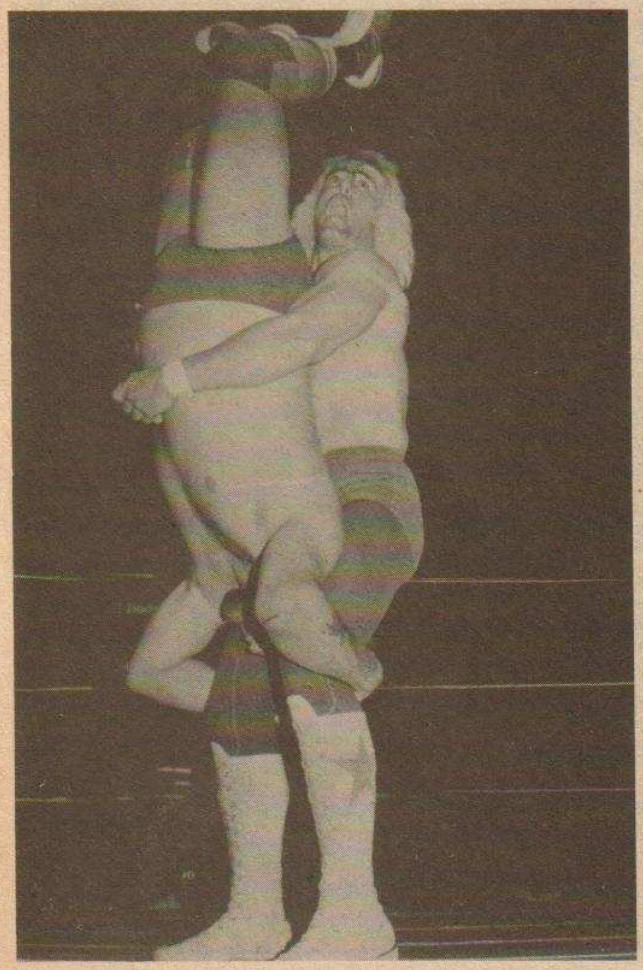
Continuous use of a foreign object. Few crimes run so contrary to the essential nature of wrestling as this one. Three physicians' reports accompanied this list of charges, attesting to the unique nature of the injuries suffered by the complainant. According to these reports, the petitioner's injuries could only have been committed with an illegal object, possibly of metallic origin. The petitioner contends the injuries were perpetrated by Austin Idol.

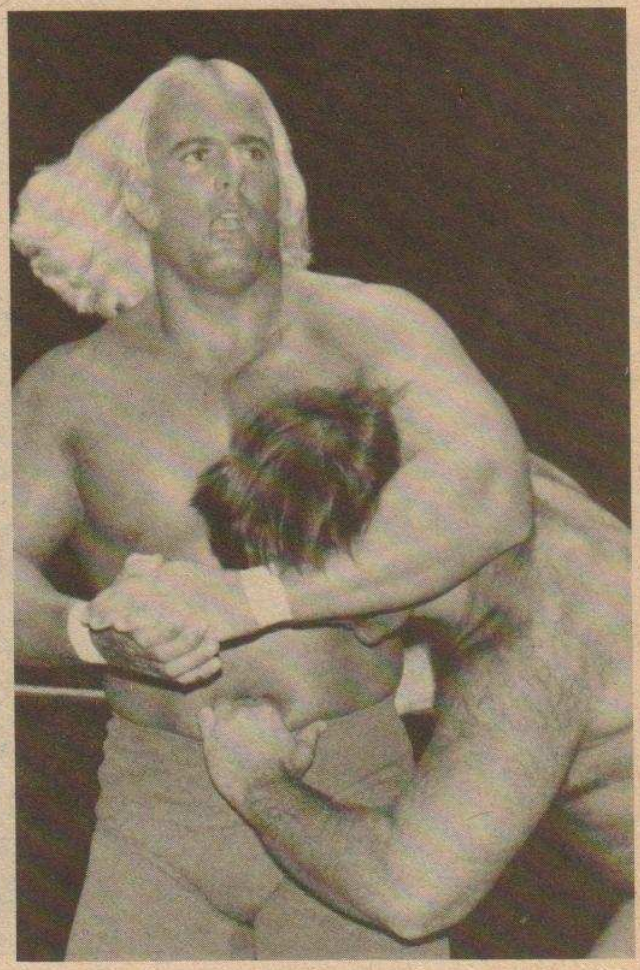
HIS DEFENSE

"Think I need a steel spike to annihilate an opponent? Austin Idol needs his bare fists, nothing more. I don't want to hear a crybaby tell me how he got bruised in the ring. This is a tough and sometimes brutal sport, man, and people are gonna get hurt. No, I'm not proud of hurtin' anyone. I don't want to hurt anyone. But if a guy attacks you from behind and tries to spear your skull on a beam, what the hell can you do? You gotta slam him around like a piece of meat until he learns his lesson."

THE VERDICT

Austin Idol should be placed on three month's probation until a clear pattern forms as to his true intentions.





Baron Von Raschke charges Austin Idol with using foreign objects. Idol's response: "Austin Idol needs his bare fists, nothing more. I don't want to hear a crybaby tell me how he got bruised in the ring."

TERRY FUNK

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by DUSTY RHODES)

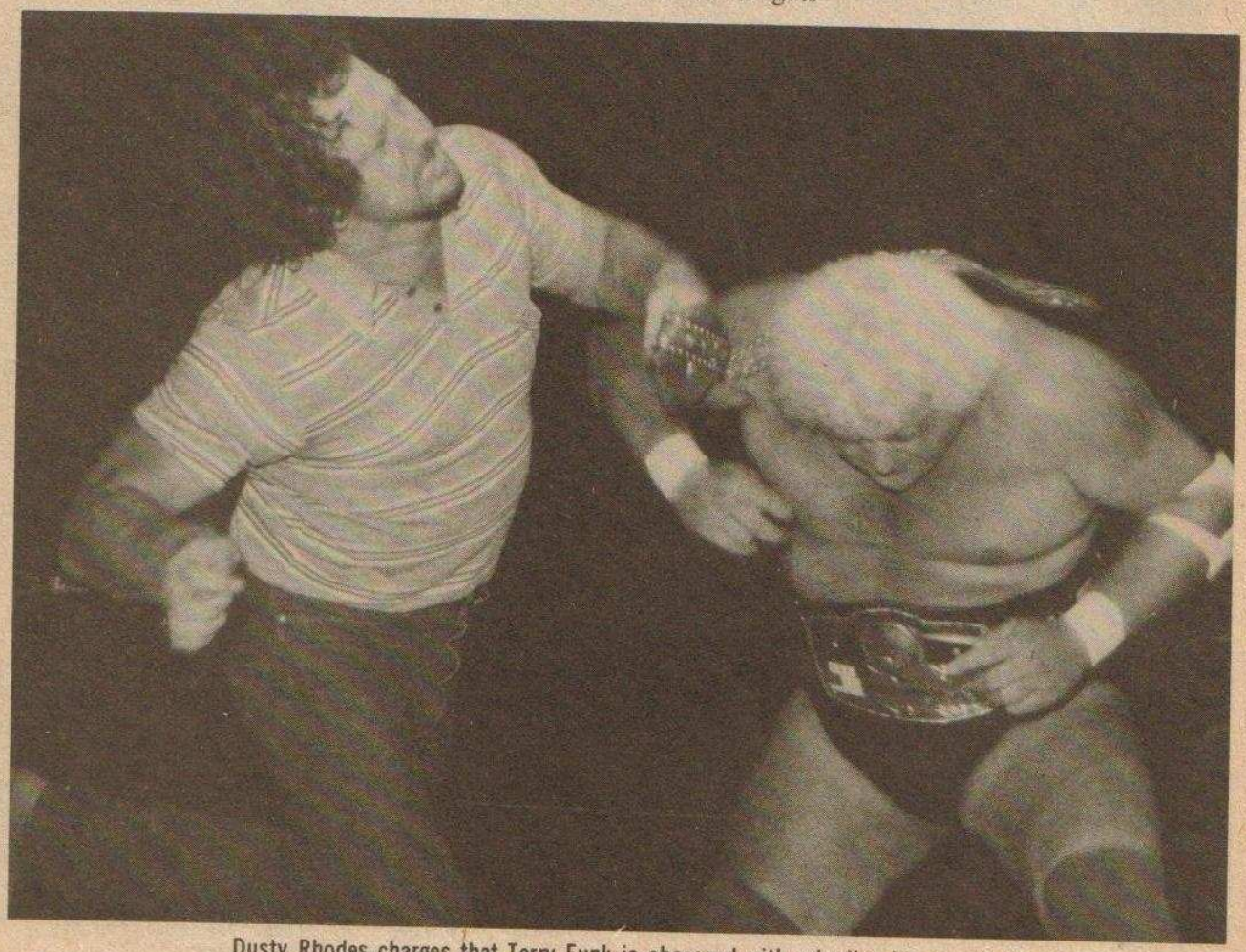
Few charges compare in seriousness. What could be more evil than purposely seeking to cripple your foe? When Terry Funk first broke into wrestling, he was accurately described as a rulebreaker. While champion, Funk defended his NWA title with a ruthless roughness. Still, Funk did not appear to be obsessed with maiming his foes. As time goes by, Funk's game grows increasingly sadistic and poses a real and present danger to all of pro wrestling.

HIS DEFENSE

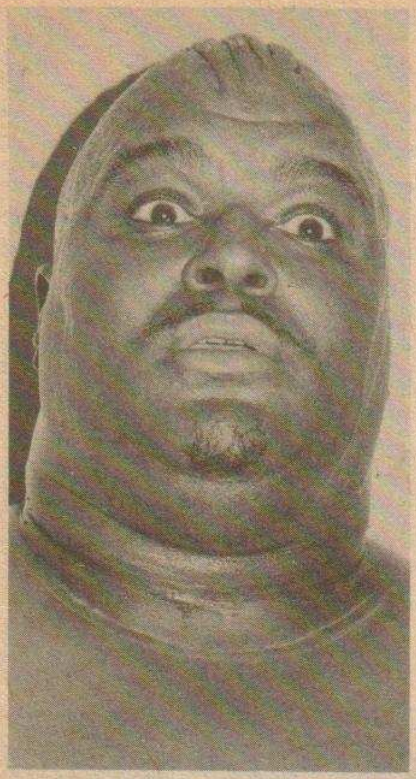
"How can I take some moron seriously who doesn't have the guts to tell me all this bunk to my face? No way, man. Probably some jealous fool who got his little ugly face bashed into a piece of strawberry jelly is goin' a whinin' and cryin' to the officials. The hell with 'em, and I mean anyone who ain't got the guts to look me in the eyes and tell me what they think."

THE VERDICT

Terry Funk should be suspended from wrestling for a period not to exceed one month and serve an additional two months on probation.



Dusty Rhodes charges that Terry Funk is obsessed with crippling his opponents. "Probably some jealous fool who got his little ugly faced based into a piece of strawberry jelly is goin' a whinin' and cryin' to the officials," Funk replies.



ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by TOMMY RICH)

Foreign maneuvers incomprehensible to Americans should be banned from wrestling. Abdullah learned his fiendish tactics in his native land, the Sudan. There, Abdullah perfected the dreaded maneuver, the Flohiden, a move which has crippled at least three dozen men. Abdullah ignores rules, making a mockery of the sport. Abdullah spits at fans and has attacked spectators on more than one occasion.

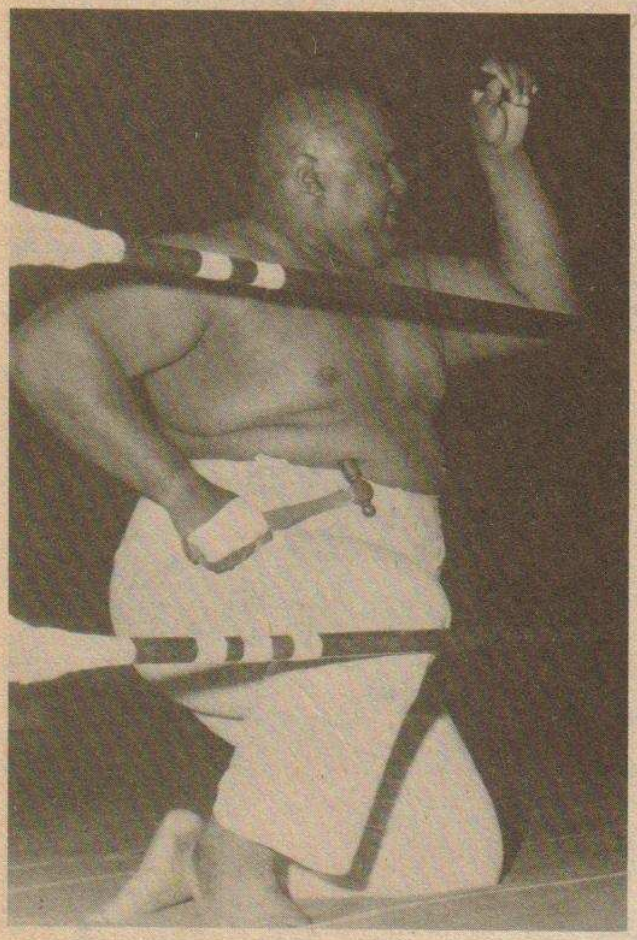
HIS DEFENSE

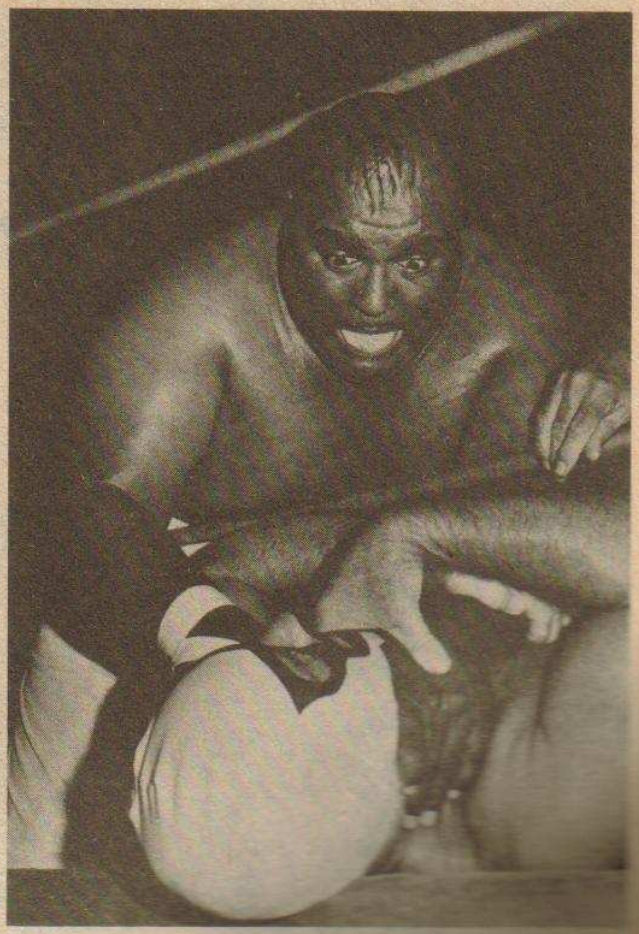
(Through an interpreter)

"Should I be bothered with fleas? Does a great lion bother with the little flies buzzing about his head? My mission in America is nearly complete. Soon I will have destroyed all my opposition. My forefathers will be most proud of me. I have no regard for fans because they are nearly extinct and regard for the well-being of my foes because they are nearly extinst and I am merely helping them along toward their inevitable demise. I am proud of what I do and feel only contempt for those unappreciative of my skills."

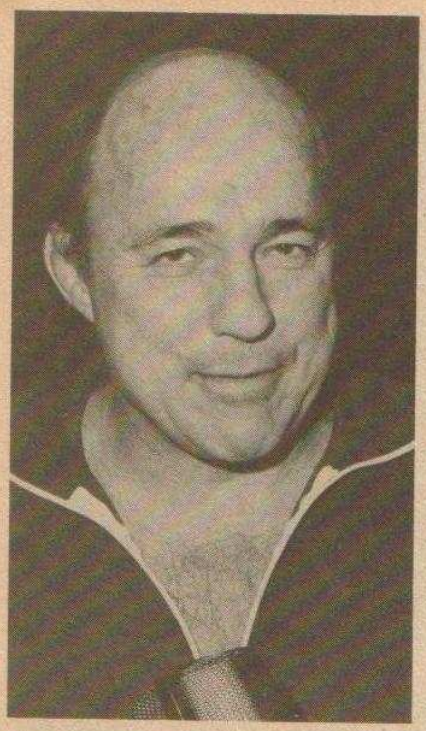
THE VERDICT

Abdullah should be suspended for eight months.





Tommy Rich charges Abdullah the Butcher with using unknown foreign maneuvers in the ring. "I am proud of what I do," Abdullah said through an interpreter.



VERNE GAGNE

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by GREG GAGNE)

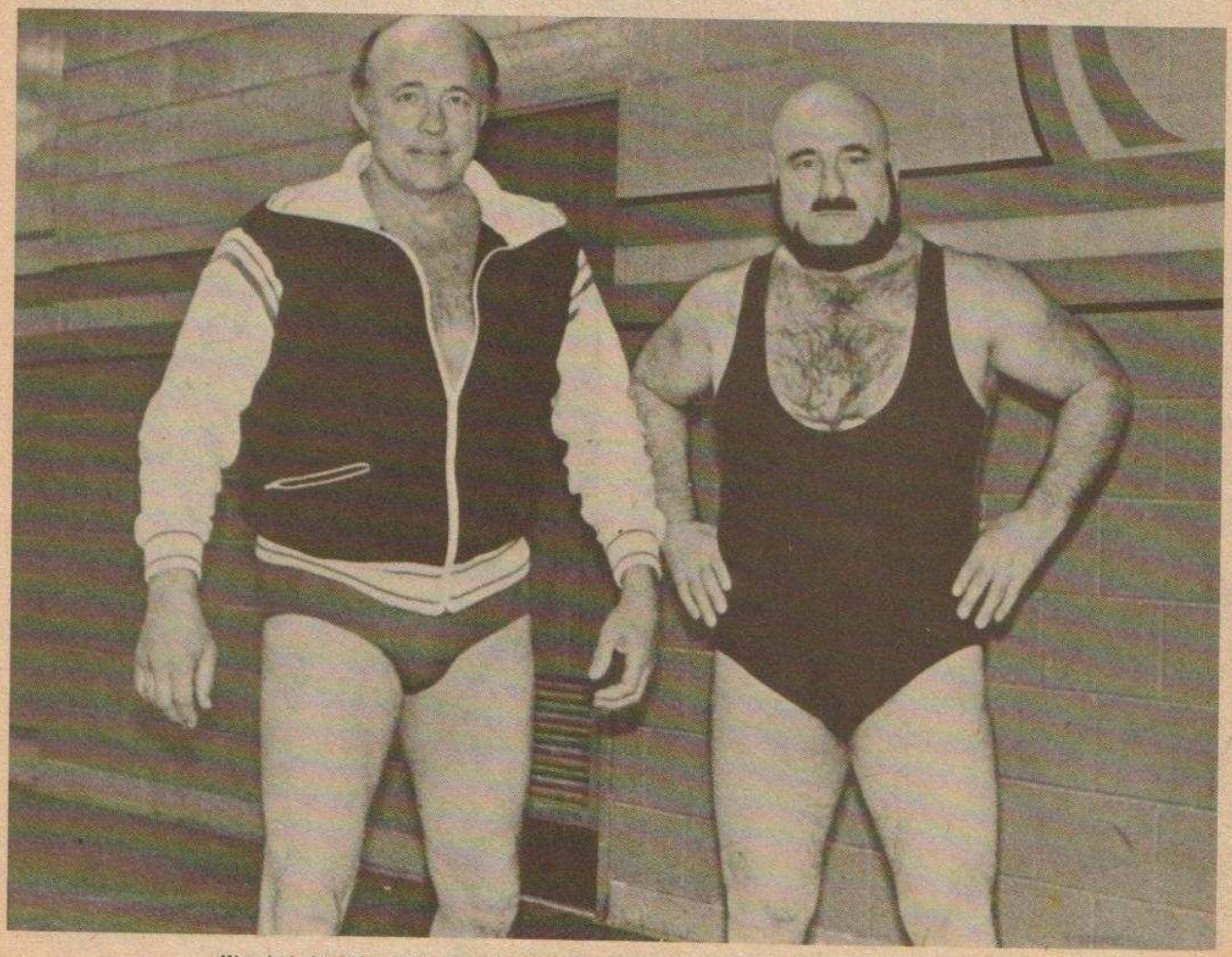
This was the most peculiar set of charges. Verne's own son, Greg, charged his father with betraying the very principles of scientific wrestling by teaming with Mad Dog Vachon. As co-holders of the AWA tag team title, Gagne and Vachon blend toughness and tact in all their matches. Yet Greg insists his father shouldn't team with such a scoundrel. Verne, according to Greg, tarnishes his great reputation by continuing to have Vachon as a partner.

HIS DEFENSE

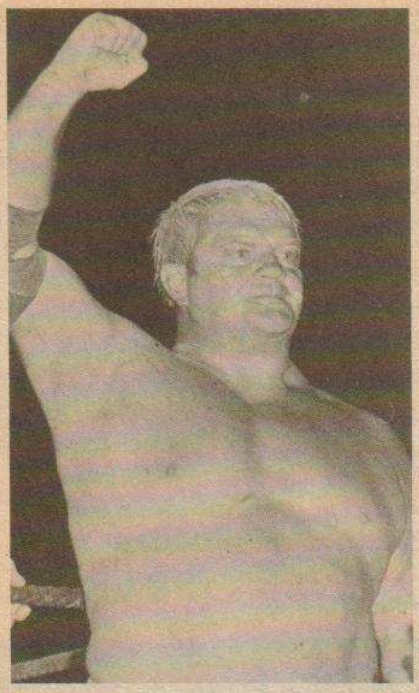
"I know how intense Greg is about this. We've talked a lot about my decision to team with Vachon. Frankly, I'm actually pleased Greg brought this up. So many sons don't care about their fathers. By instigating these charges, Greg shows real concern. It can't always be the father watching out for the son. If I've raised my kid well and given him a good set of principles, I should listen to him every now and then. A father should be able to learn from his son. I think that's the sign of a very healthy relationship.

THE VERDICT

All charges dropped.



Worried about his father's well-being, Greg Gagne charges Verne Gagne with betraying his scientific principles by teaming with Mad Dog Vachon. "By instigating these charges," Verne says, "Greg shows real concern."



BRUISER

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by NICK BOCKWINKEL)

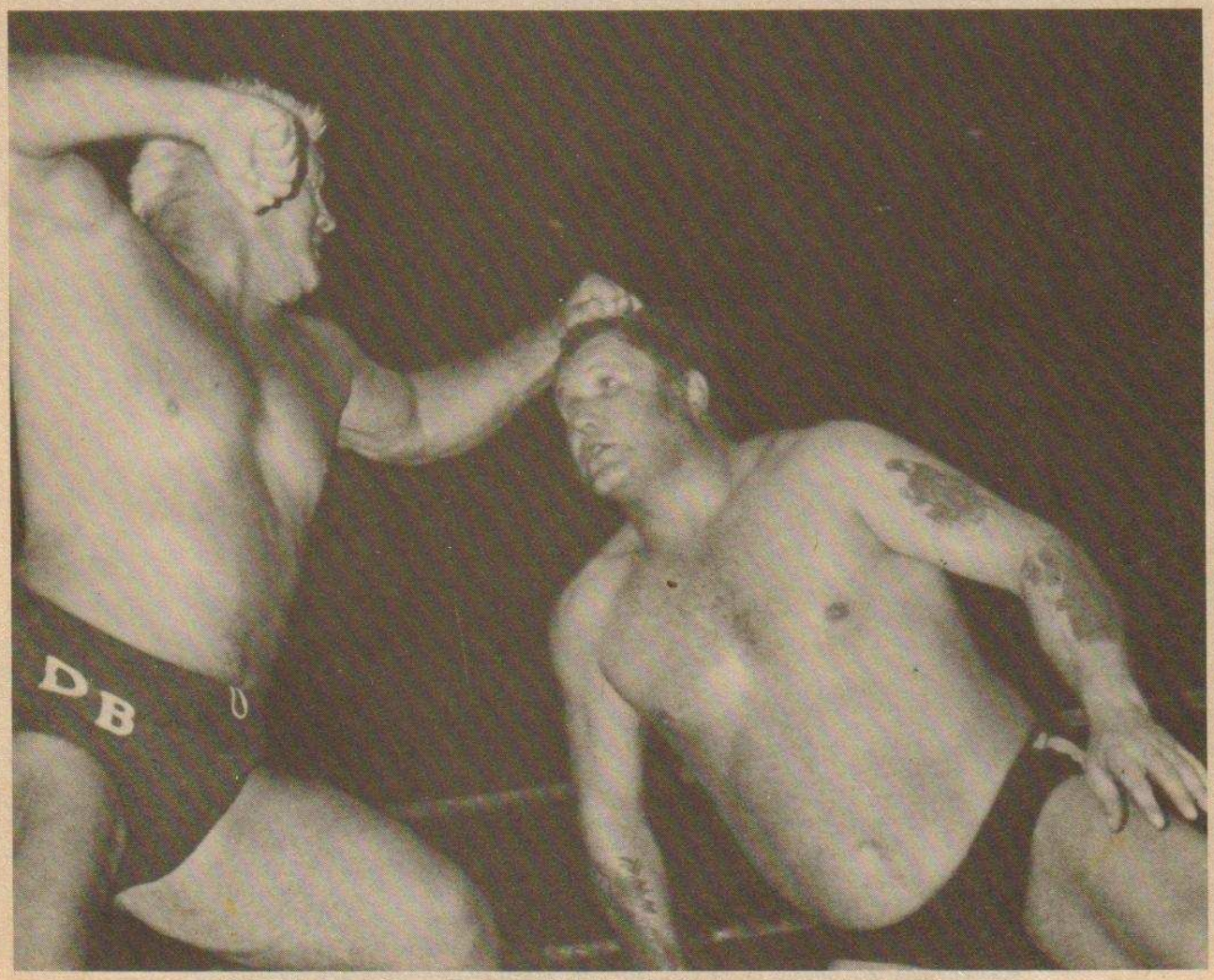
Bruiser's intellectual capacity falls below the minimum standards. Bruiser cannot solve simple problems of math. Bruiser does not know how to lick a stamp upon an envelope and often walks around with the postage stamp glued to his tongue. Referee instructions do not influence Bruiser since he barely understands English. The petitioner contends Bruiser's IQ hovers below 45.

HIS DEFENSE

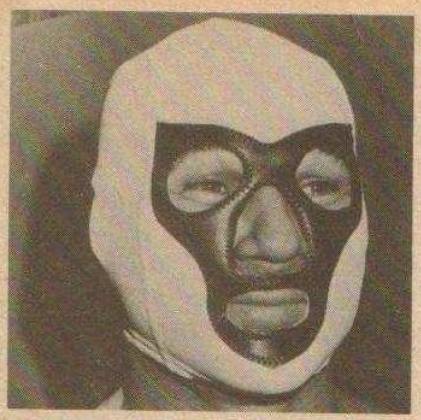
"You gotta know math to bash in a skull? Since when? What the hell is this world comin' to when some fool can get up and talk about science and say you gotta know this and that to bash in a skull? All the smarts I got are up here, right up here, and they let me bash in a lot of skulls. That's all I need. This other stuff is a bunch of stupid kibberish brought by some ignoramus."

THE VERDICT

Bruiser had to pass a written examination to acquire his wrestling license. He has passed many tougher tests in the ring. No suspension.



Nick Bockwinkel charges Bruiser with lacking the intelligence to understand the rules of the sport. "All the smarts I got are up here, right up here, and they let me bash in a lot of skulls."



MR. WRESTLING II

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by MASKED SUPERSTAR)

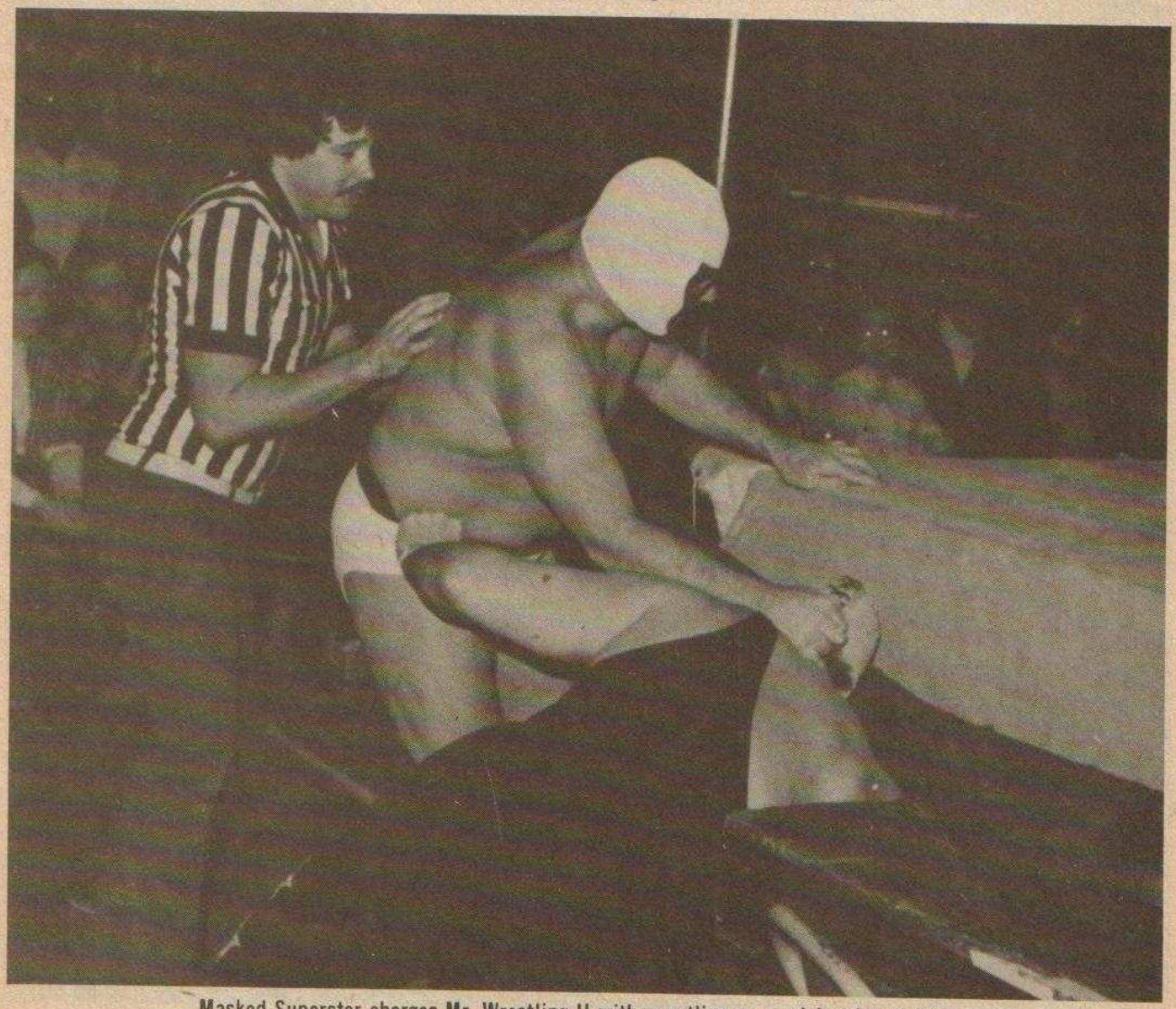
According to the charges submitted, Mr. Wrestling II wrestles under a variety of names, all of them belonging to rulebreakers. While wrestling under these different identities, II uses illegal objects, spits at fans, and batters his foes long after his bouts have ended. Even more alarming are the accusations of someone *else* wrestling as II, hired and paid by Mr. Wrestling II.

HIS DEFENSE

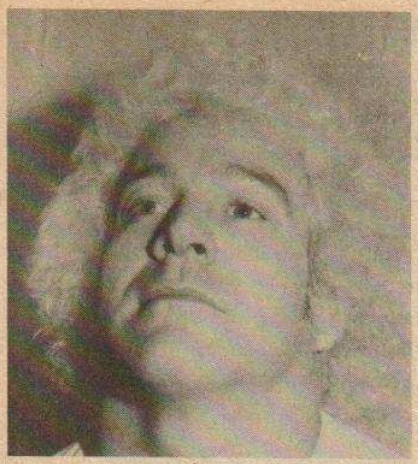
"Who said that? No, doesn't matter, I can guess at some of the nuts running around Georgia. I have trouble answering such ridiculous charges because I really don't know how to disprove them. All my wrestling life, I've lived on the trust and respect of others. And I'm proud to say I've earned that trust and respect. My fans know I'd never do anything like that. If someone chooses to believe I wrestle under a different name and mask as a rulebreaker, well, what can I say? Everyone's entitled to their own opinion."

THE VERDICT

Each of the masked wrestlers named in the charges must undergo an examination to see if one of them is Mr. Wrestling II. If this charge proves groundless, no further action will be taken. If true, II should be suspended for four months.



Masked Superstar charges Mr. Wrestling II with wrestling as a rulebreaker under a variety of different masks. "I have trouble answering such ridiculous charges," II says, "because I really don't know how to disprove them."



KEN PATERA

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by PAT PATTERSON)

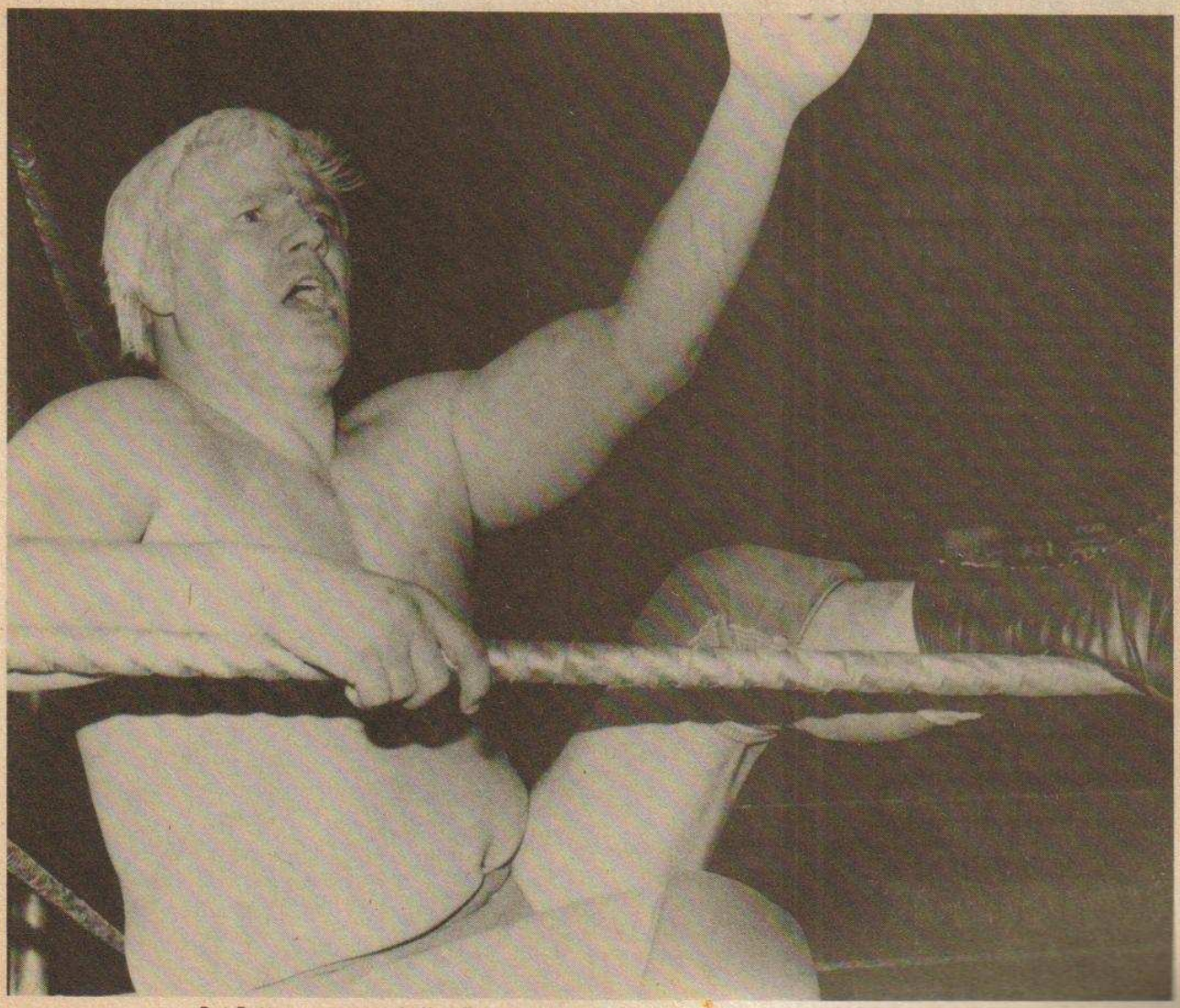
During the Inter-Continental championship bout in which Ken Patera won the title from Pat Patterson, the petitioner contends he had his foot on the ropes and should not have been pinned. Patera allegedly refused a reviewing of the films under WWF laws. Following these charges, Patera vowed never to relinquish his title unless he perished in the ring.

HIS DEFENSE

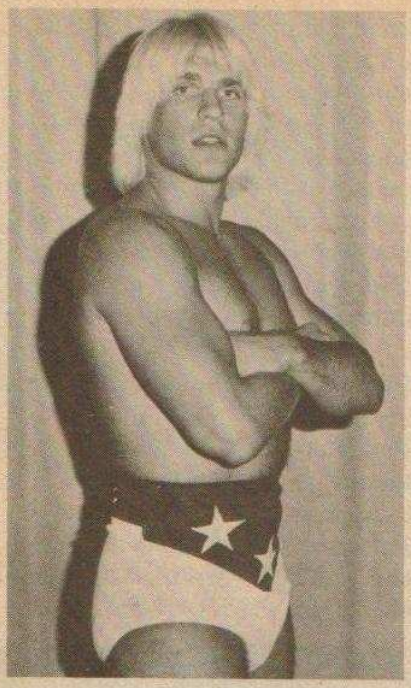
"First of all, Ken Patera doesn't need any help in beating a bum like Pat Patterson. Let's clear that up right here and now. I never saw Patterson's foot on the ropes. The referee didn't point it out. All that's a lot of sour grapes as far as I'm concerned, a device for Patterson to use in explaining his failure. I could beat Patterson in any kind of match, something I've demonstrated on many occasions. So let's put these charges the same place Patterson belongs, in the garbage dump."

THE VERDICT

Films of the match must be reviewed. If the films reveal Patterson's foot was on the ropes, the title shall be declared open and a special match held between Patterson and Patera to determine the new Inter-Continental champion.



Pat Patterson contends Ken Patera stole his championship by not allowing the films of their controversial title match to be reviewed. "All that's a lot of sour grapes as far as I'm concerned," says Patera.



TOMMY RICH

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by MARK LEWIN)

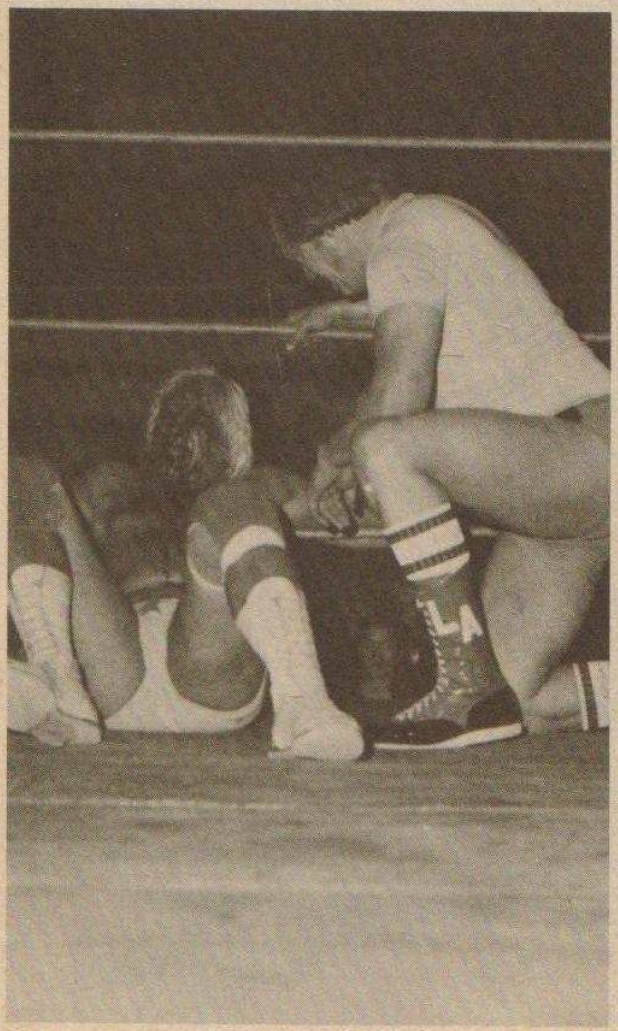
Tommy Rich requires help from friends to survive, much less win any matches. His friend, Austin Idol, must interfere and save Rich each time he's in trouble, which is every five minutes. Rich has never won a match on his own merits. Instead he pays off Idol and others to batter his foe, and then he turns on his helpless, innocent opponent to finish him off. In addition, Rich cheats repeatedly, using foreign objects and illegal maneuvers.

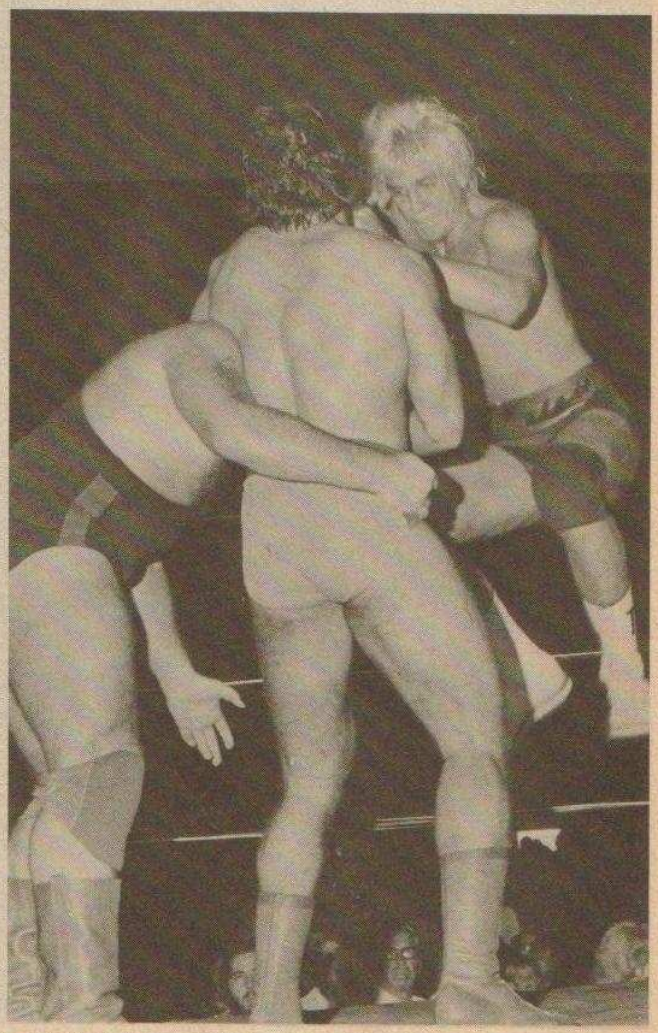
HIS DEFENSE

"I don't like my friends tossed into any controversy. No reason to involve them. This is between me and my foe. Only time anyone ever came into the ring was when I was double or triple-teamed. I don't need any help to win my matches. I think something should be done about irresponsible charges which ruin a man's reputation. I feel strange even defending myself. I know my fans understand the truth and the fans are all that matter to me. If they said something, it'd be a different story."

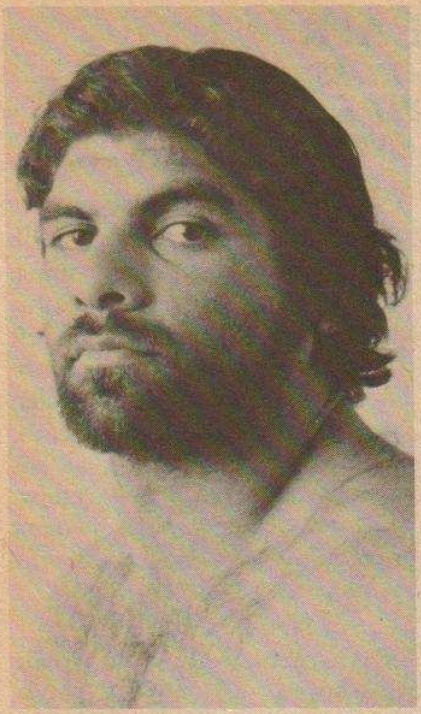
THE VERDICT

All charges dropped for lack of evidence.





Mark Lewin charges that Tommy Rich needs outside help to win his matches. "I don't need any help to win my matches," Rich states. "I think something should be done about irresponsible charges which ruin a man's reputation."



DON MURACO

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by BUGSY McGRAW)

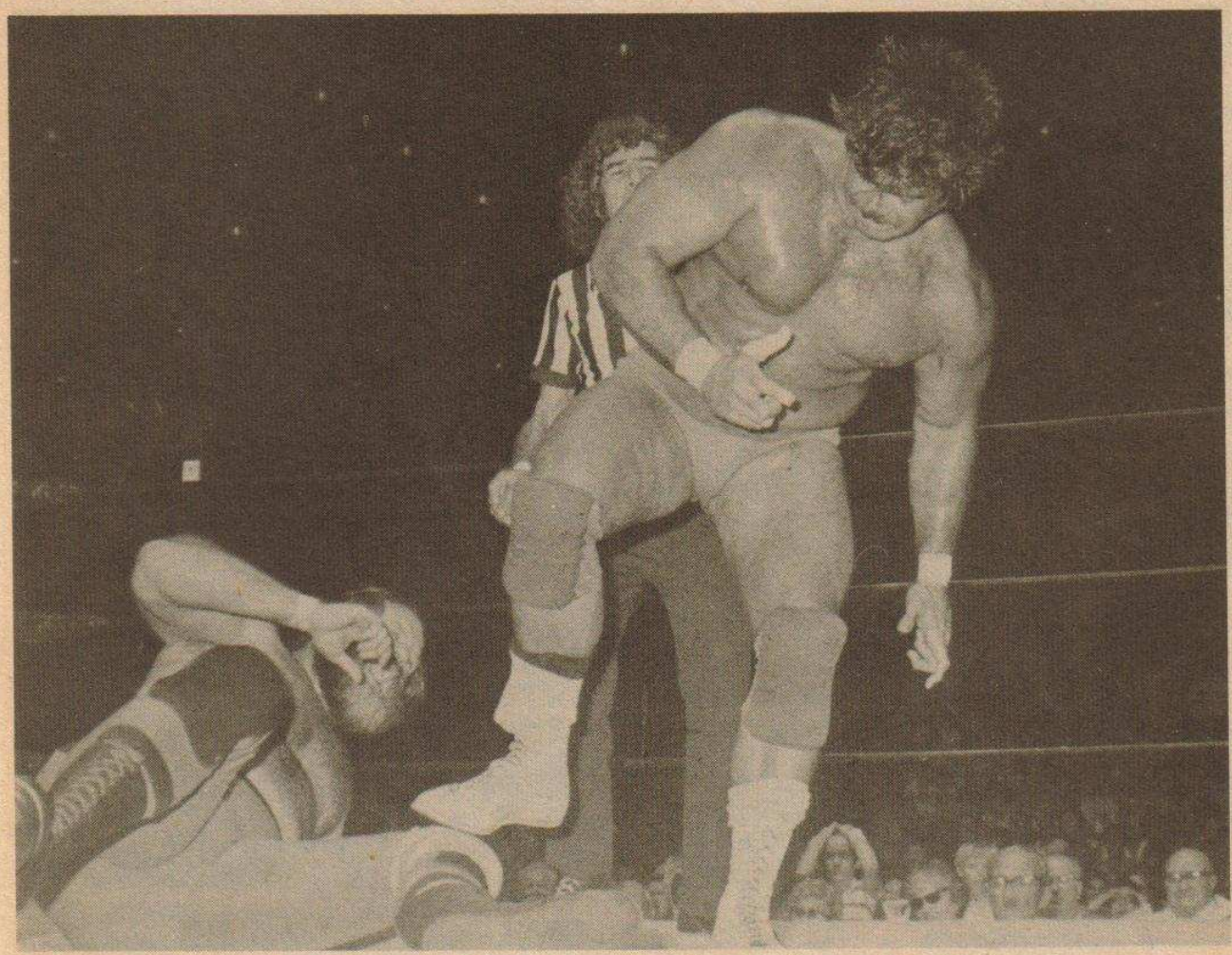
In Florida, the maneuver known as the piledriver is illegal, for obvious reasons. Exponents of this maneuver crippled too many foes. Public outcry compelled the Florida officials to ban this move. Don Muraco uses this move, though he calls it the Asian Hammer. At least two preliminary wrestlers had careers cut short after Muraco battered them senseless.

HIS DEFENSE

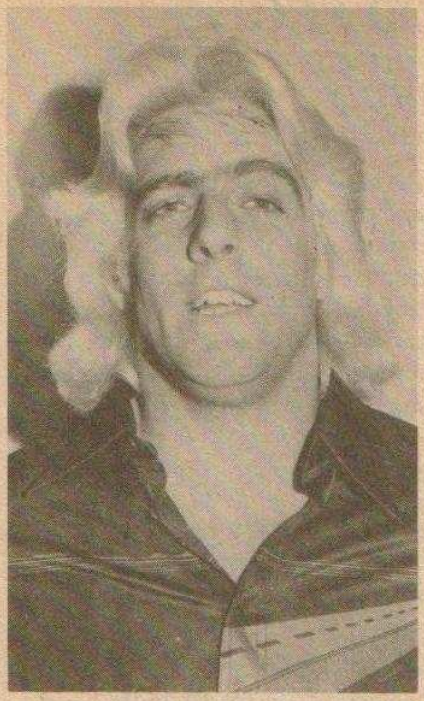
"Can't anyone in this state read? Guess not. Apparently only my friends understand simple English. Perhaps I should make up a sign and carry it around in the ring. My maneuver is not a piledriver. I do not need illegal maneuvers to beat this collection of nit-wits and turkeys. All I need is my own raw, immense strength and brilliant mind to upend any fool in Florida. Again, my maneuver is called the Asian Hammer. Got that? One more time: the Asian Hammer, idiots."

THE VERDICT

Films of Don Muraco's matches should be reviewed. If he is using the piledriver, Muraco should be suspended for six months.



According to charges by Bugsy McGraw, Don Muraco gets away with using the piledriver. "I do not need illegal maneuvers to beat this collection of nit-wits and turkeys," Muraco says.



RIC FLAIR

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by GREG VALENTINE)

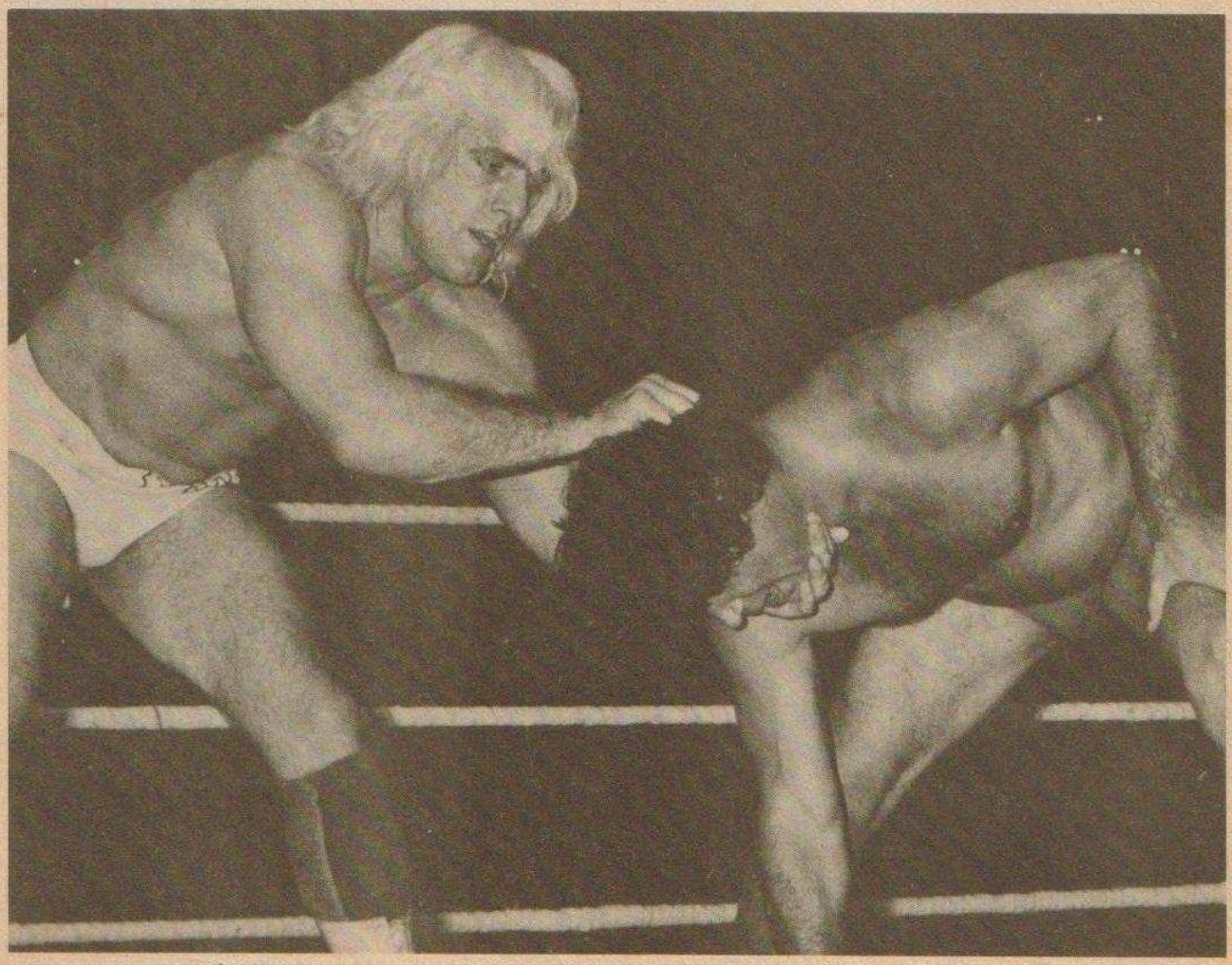
A copy of an oath accompanied this charge. "I hereby swear to pursue any means available to win a wrestling bout. I will use any weapon. My opponent's total destruction shall always be the ultimate objective. No financial incentive or public coercion shall dissuade me from this oath. To break this oath activates the penalty of death, and all blood brothers have the absolute right to destroy me." This was signed by Ric Flair. This grisly code of rulebreaking splintered once Flair started wrestling within the rules.

HIS DEFENSE

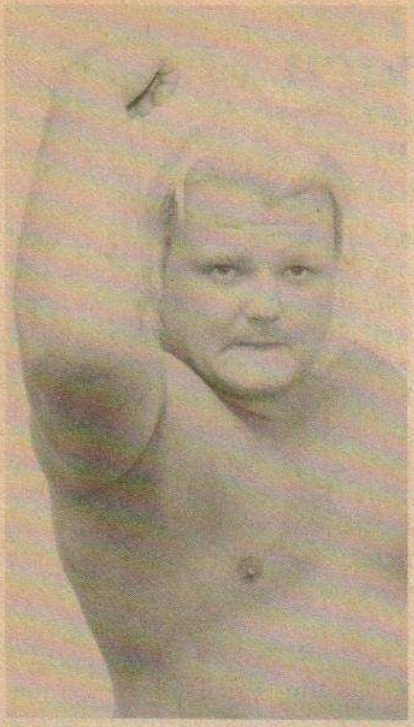
"That stupid pledge? Yeah, I don't lie, I signed that stupid thing. Maybe I better explain how it came about. Just before Valentine left for the WWF, he got real nervous. To reassure him, I agreed to sign this pledge we'd always be friends, kid stuff. Didn't think the nit-wit would believe that. I don't know, you gotta wonder about someone's brains when they buy a kid stuff oath like that."

THE VERDICT

All charges against Ric Flair are dropped.



Greg Valentine brought a sworn oath to the board, signed by Ric Flair, stating that Ric will always wrestle until his opponents' destruction. "Didn't think the nit-wit would believe that," Flair says.



GREG VALENTINE

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by RIC FLAIR)

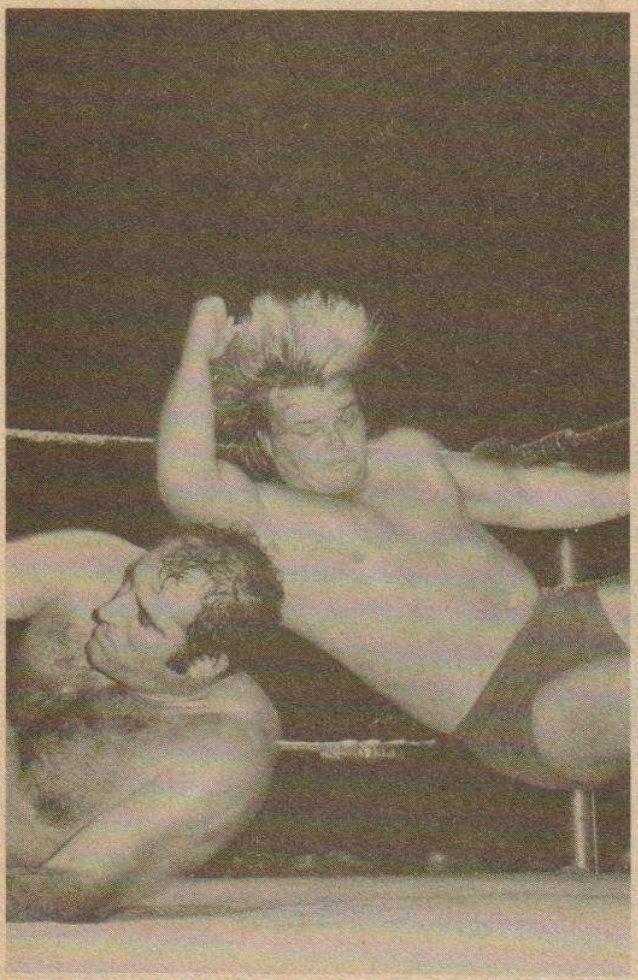
Questions erupt about the legality of Greg Valentine's atomic elbowsmashes. When delivering this fiendish maneuver, Valentine directs the point of his elbow directly upon his opponent's skull, aiming for the softest part of the head. Valentine allegedly sharpens his elbow by using a bone-hardening device he discovered while touring the Orient. By sharpening the elbow and dipping the pointed bone in a poisonous solution, Valentine can induce sleep and possibly brain damage.

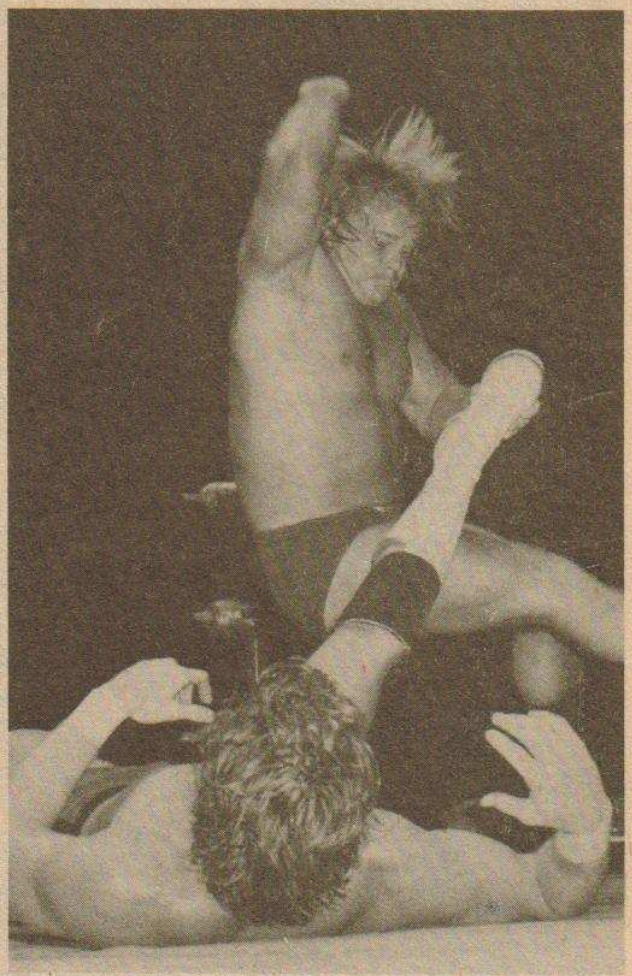
HIS DEFENSE

"Retards can't figure how I whip every birdbrain stupid enough to cross my path. Hell, man, I do it from my natural ability. Ain't anyone tough like me. Ain't anyone with the ambition I got. Hell, they just can't understand 'cause they're always lying on the ground, eyes closed, body bruised, and face bloodied. Hell, ya think some stupid jerk panel is gonna stop the great Greg Valentine?"

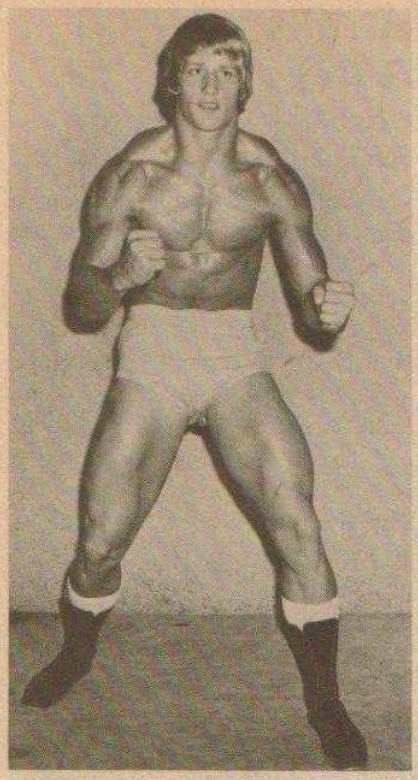
THE VERDICT

Suspend Greg Valentine for four months. Following that, compel Valentine to take training lessons from Rick Steamboat.





Ric Flair counters Greg Valentine's charges by claiming Greg has found an illegal way to make his elbowsmash more devastating. Greg's response: "Hell, man, I do it from my natural ability."



KEVIN VON ERICH

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by GINO HERNANDEZ)

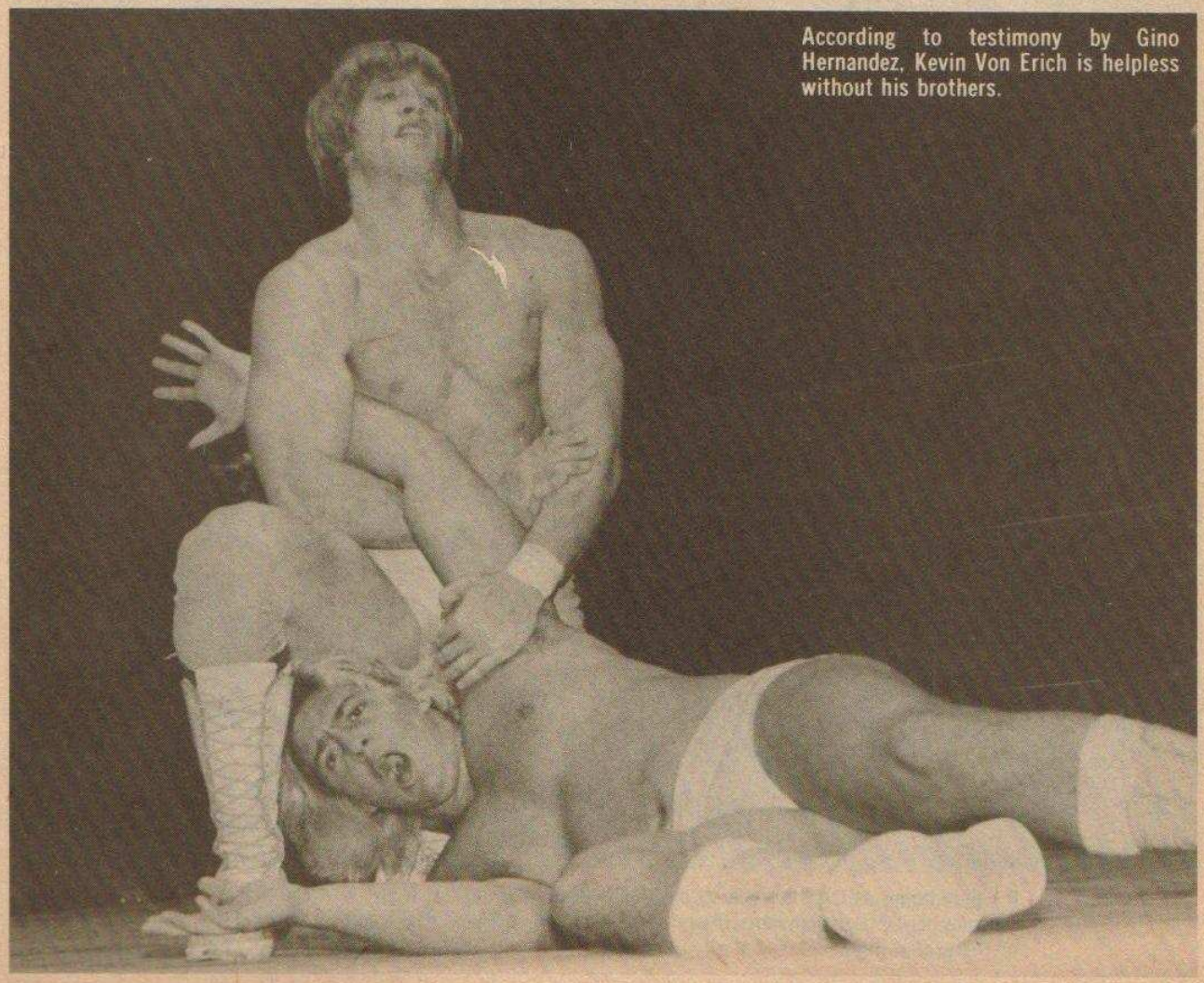
According to the list of grievances, Kevin Von Erich is a coward. On eight separate occasions, supported by sworn testimony and photos, Von Erich ran from the ring in the face of danger and begged his father, Fritz, to take care of his opponent. Every time Von Erich is in trouble, he pleads with the referee to stop the match. Von Erich has gone so far as to hire people at ringside to distract his opponents in a desperate effort to gain some pitiful advantage.

HIS DEFENSE

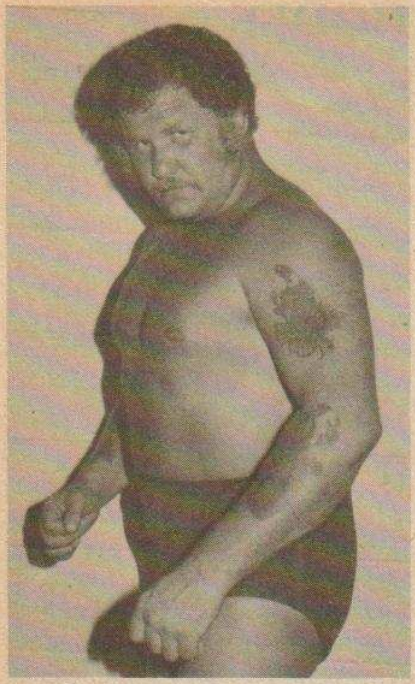
"Let me tell you something about the Von Erich tradition. Dad always taught us to learn to fight our own battles. If one of the kids couldn't win a good, clean fight, well, just tough on him, that's all. A brawl with someone sneaking up behind you, heck, that's something different. Then we stand together. But I can say with complete honesty, I, and I can speak for my brothers as well, never ran from a fight. That's just not the way we were raised."

THE VERDICT

Kevin Von Erich must meet the instigator of these charges in a steel cage match.



According to testimony by Gino Hernandez, Kevin Von Erich is helpless without his brothers.



HARLEY RACE

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by MANNY FERNANDEZ)

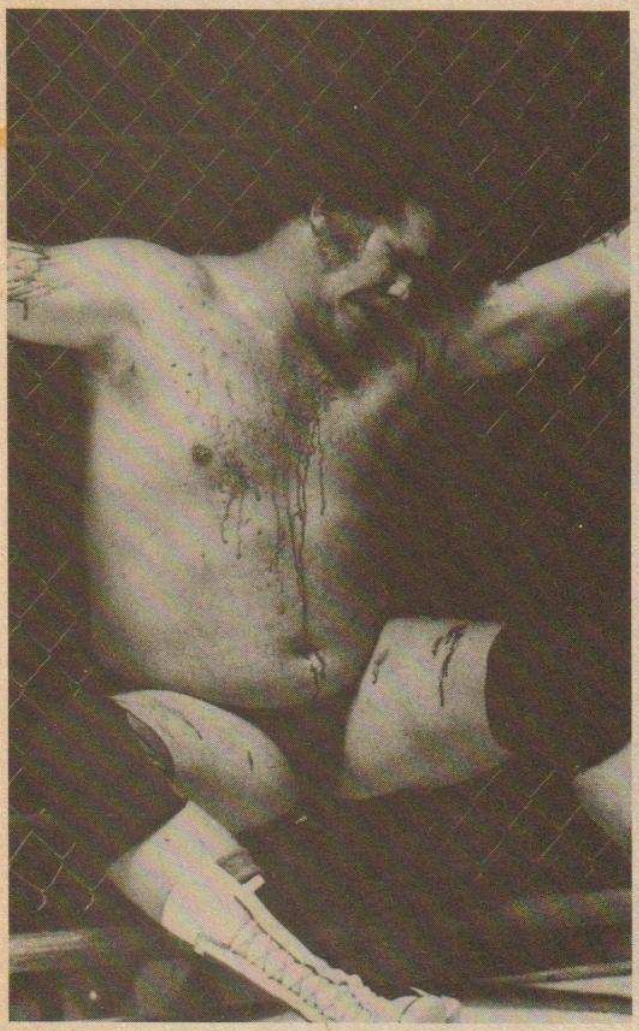
After years of absorbing blows to the head, Harley Race is senile and poses a menace to himself and his foes. Repeatedly, Race fails to comprehend where he is or what he is doing. He mutters and mumbles in the ring and often believes he is wrestling a different foe. With this sudden senility comes an inability to wrestle fairly. When one is senile, one has difficulty understanding rules. Also, Race's hearing is impaired, making him incapable of responding to the referee's instructions and the timekeeper's bell.

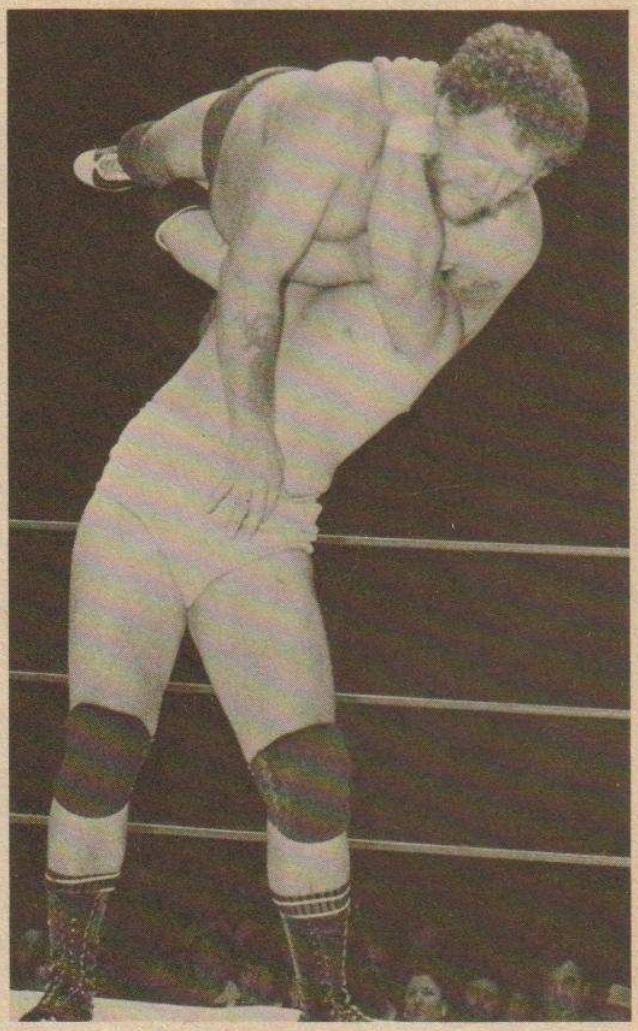
HIS DEFENSE

"I'm sharper than ever. More clear, wiser, stronger, tougher. Gotta figure some punk kid who doesn't have the guts to make it in pro wrestling shoots off his big, fat mouth and makes these stupid charges. I'll undergo any test you want. But the real test as far as I'm concerned happens right in that ring, buster. I'll wager the sound of my opponent's screams will come through loud and clear."

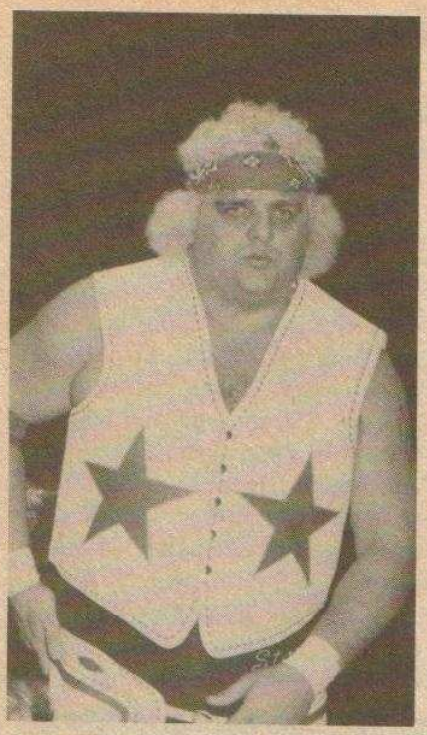
THE VERDICT

Harley Race must undergo a thorough physical examination.





Manny Fernandez charges Harley Race with senility brought about by beatings he has taken through the years. "I'll undergo any test you want," responds the NWA champion. "But the real test as far as I'm concerned happens right in the ring."



DUSTY RHODES

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by HARLEY RACE)

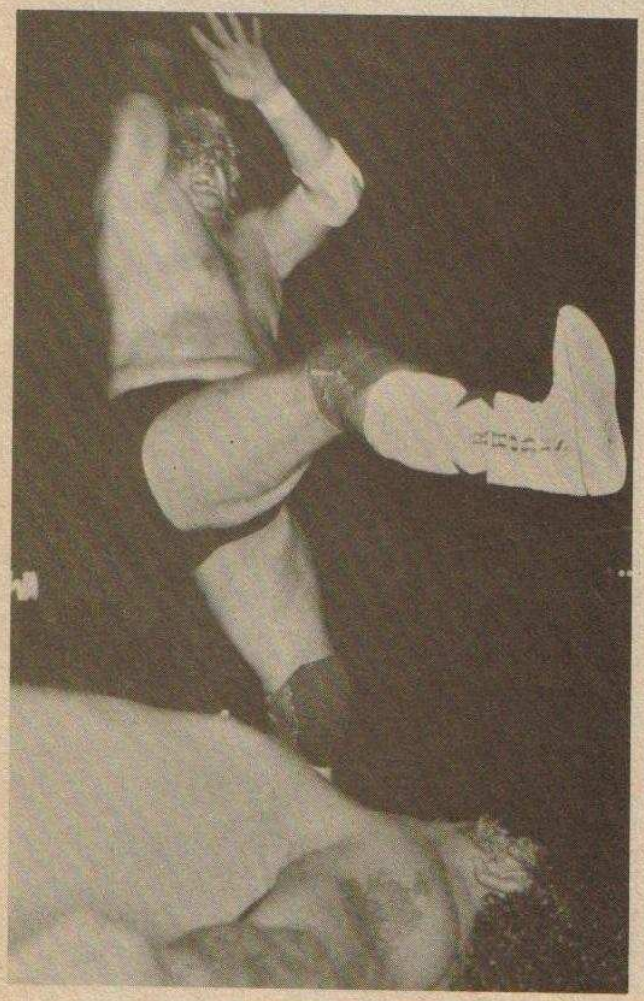
Dusty Rhodes has fooled the fans by acting like a noble scientific wrestler when, in actuality, he is little more than a rough-and-tumble street brawler who will use any illegal trick at his disposal. In his early years, Dusty Rhodes wrestled with Dick Murdoch as the infamous Outlaws, a rulebreaker tag team. In the past year, since his NWA title loss to champion Harley Race, Rhodes went out of his way to attack Race and all his friends at every opportunity.

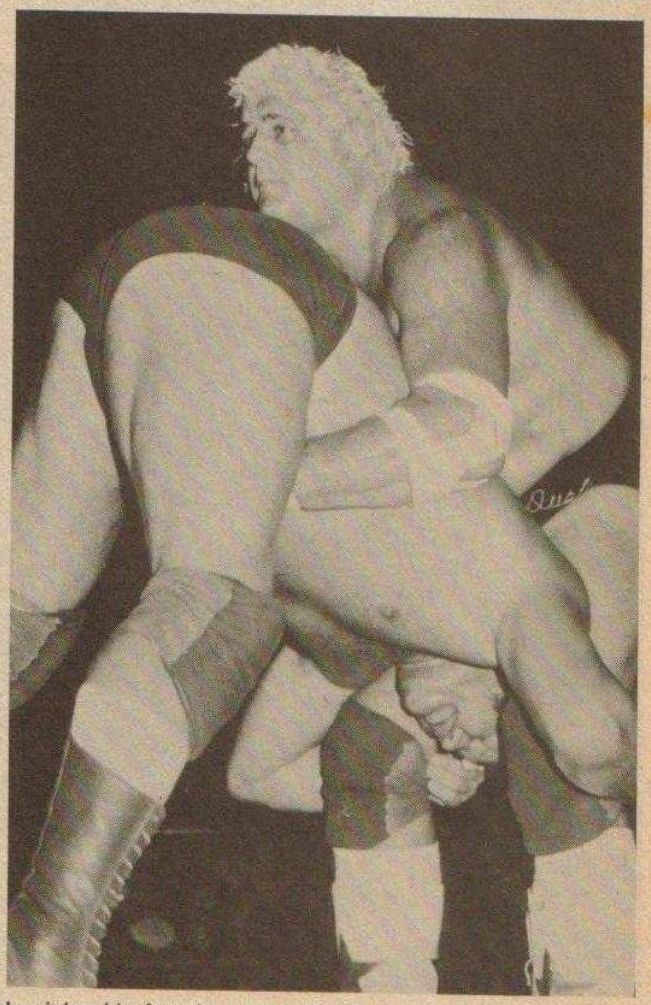
HIS DEFENSE

"I'd never deny my rulebreaker background, but all fans know I turned my back on that sort of tomfoolery years ago. I'm ashamed of what I did but everyone's got some kinda black mark in their past. As for Race, I realized real quick you can't be a gentleman with vermin like Race and Funk. That's realistic, man. This is a tough sport."

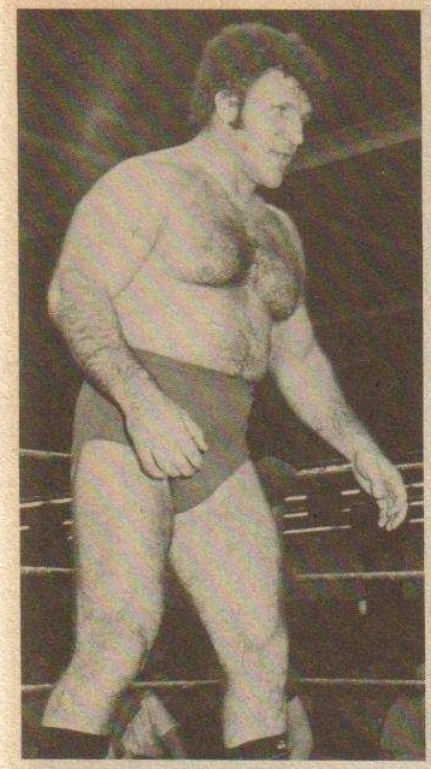
THE VERDICT

A two-member Florida panel shall monitor Rhodes' next 20 matches. He must avoid brawling, except in self-defense. If he is the instigator of a brawl, Rhodes recommended suspension is one month.





Harley Race charges Dusty Rhodes with deceiving his fans by pretending to be a scientific wrestler. "You can't be a gentleman with vermin like Race and Funk," Rhodes says in his defense.



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by SUPER-STAR BILLY GRAHAM)

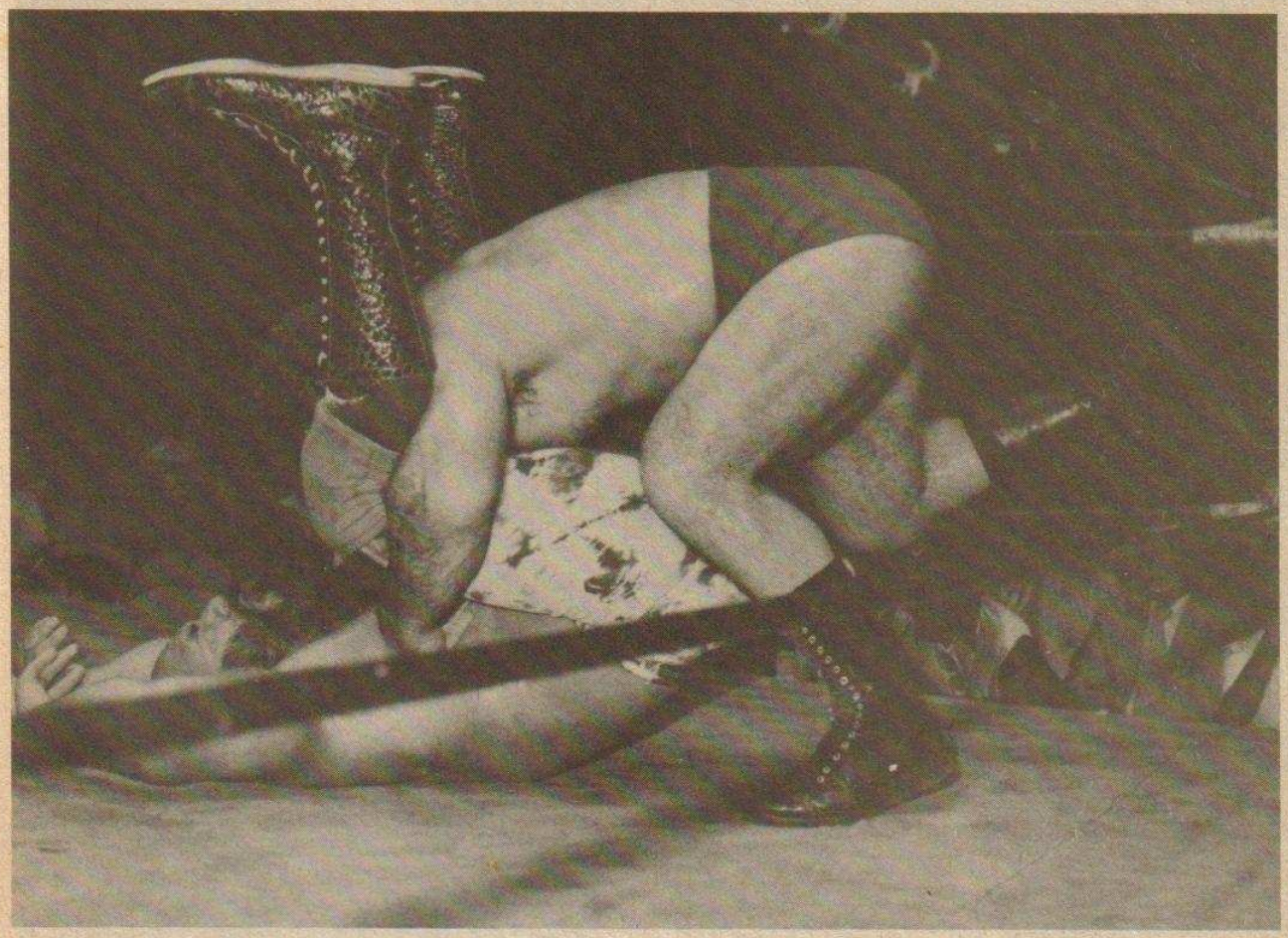
In subtle ways, Bruno Sammartino cheats. Against Graham several months ago, Sammartino put his foot on the rope to gain leverage for a body press. Yet Sammartino whined years ago when his efforts at cheating against Graham failed and he lost the WWF title to Superstar. Rulebreaking isn't alien to Bruno. His disgraceful tactics against Larry Zbyszko (trying to choke him and verbally humiliating him on national television) point to a man determined to break the rules.

HIS DEFENSE

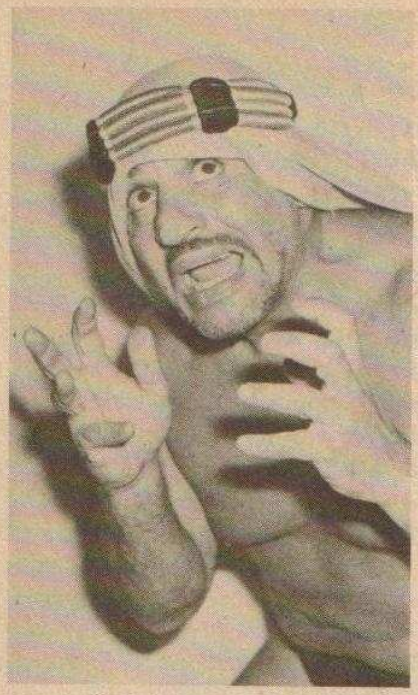
"You know, these creeps can say what they want. I was provoked, doggone it. Graham had his foot on the ropes in Baltimore when he stole the WWF title from me. As for that creep Zbyszko, I want to say I should break his skull open for the way he's mistreated his fans and friends."

THE VERDICT

If Sammartino should capture a title, his championship matches shall be monitored via videotape. If a defense is made through an illegality, he shall be stripped of the belt.



Bruno Sammartino gets away with rulebreaking, according to charges brought by Superstar Graham. "You know," Sammartino replies, "those creeps can say what they want. I was provoked [into breaking the rules]."



THE SHEIK

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by MIL MASCARAS)

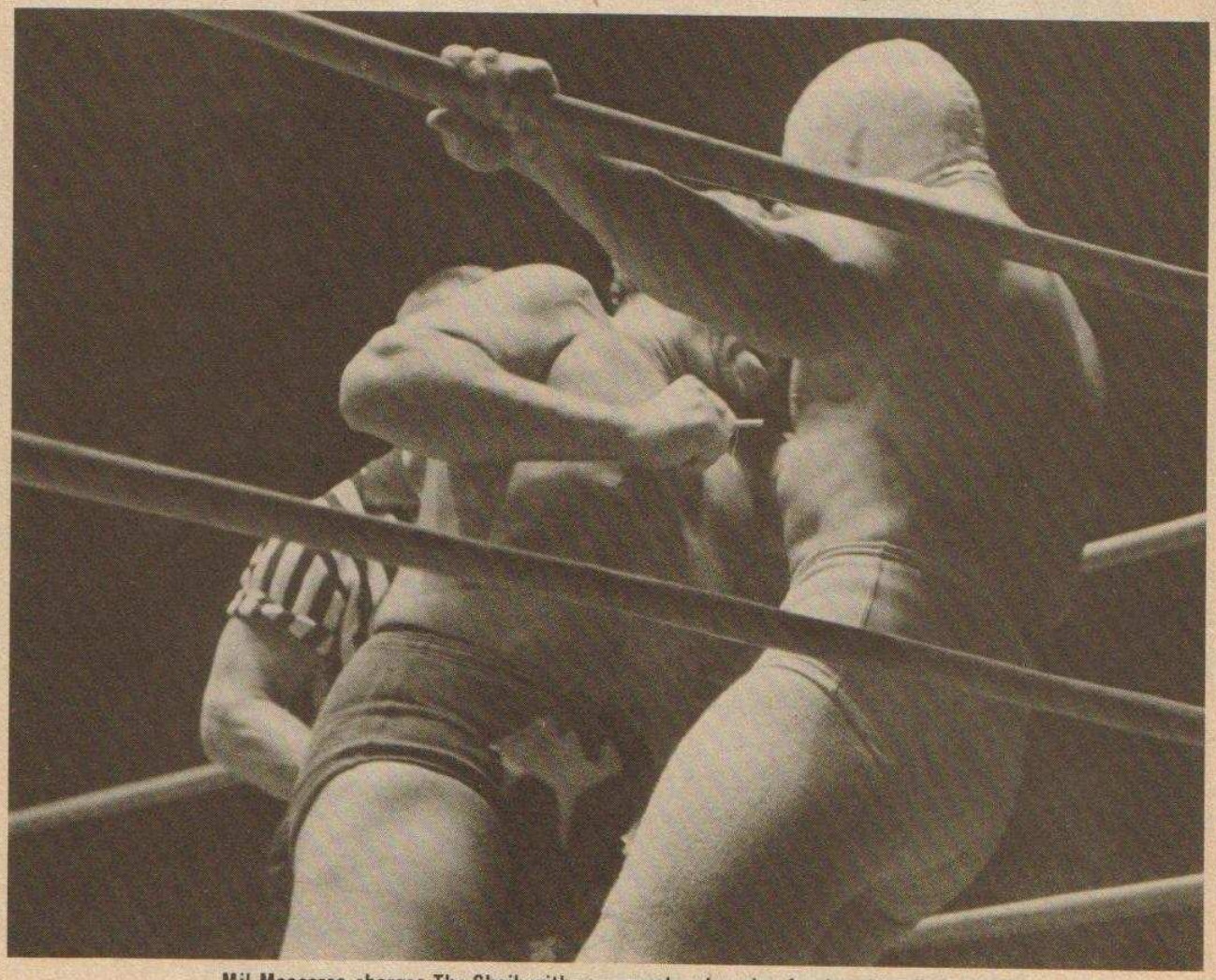
Laws mean nothing to this wild Arab. His foreign objects read like the inventory at a junkyard. From metal cylinders to poison-tipped pencils, The Sheik uses anything he can get his hands or teeth on. Past suspensions and fines exerted little effect on The Sheik. Citizens' petitions were ignored. Parents' and teachers' organizations lobbied for a bill in the Michigan state legislature to ban this foreign menace. Nothing works.

HIS DEFENSE (Through an interpreter)

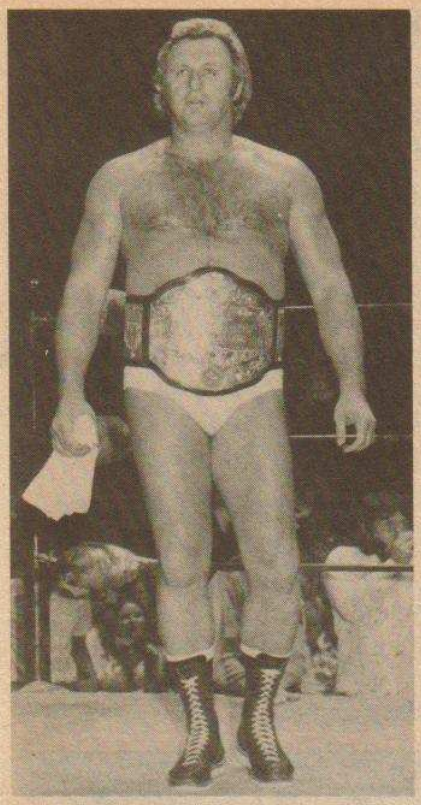
"No backward official or fan or wrestler can prevent me from living as my ancestors lived. I have much to uphold. I wrestle in the traditional manner. Winning matters, little else. All my people honor me for my grand achievements. Your words and charges mean nothing for they are the product of a primitive people."

THE VERDICT (Final decision by King and Apter)

The Sheik must be banned from wrestling for a period not less than six months. His cruelty cannot go unpunished.



Mil Mascaras charges The Sheik with unscrupulously using foreign objects to maim his foes. "I wrestle in the traditional manner," The Sheik responds through an interpreter. "Winning matters, little else."



NICK BOCKWINKEL

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by VERNE GAGNE)

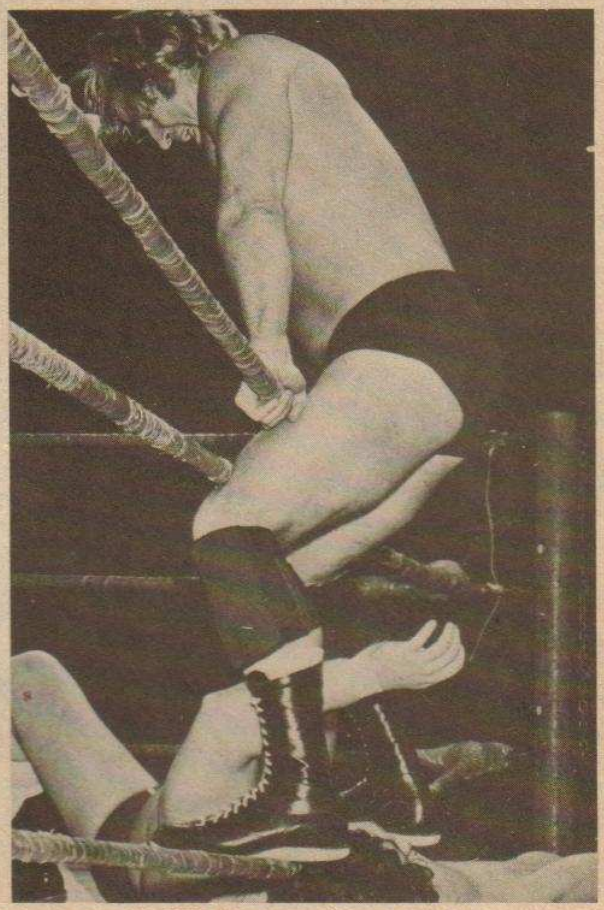
In nearly every title defense, Bockwinkel resorts to self-disqualification when in trouble. A champion must be held to a higher standard than mere contenders. He represents his federation. He embodies every other wrestler in the area. For a champion to get himself disqualified instead of fighting back is a disgrace. Every pro wrestler suffers when one of their champions stoops to this gutter level.

HIS DEFENSE

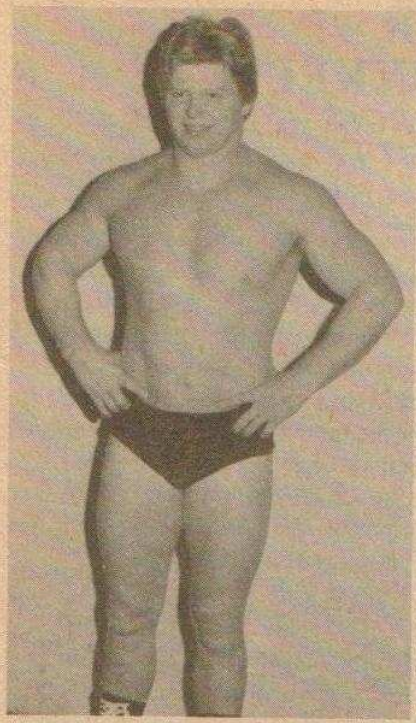
"I am weary of explaining my vastly superior intellect to ignorant, one-celled cretins. Of course my wrestling style seems peculiar to others. They are ignorant fools who wrestle as others have wrestled since the beginning of time. All great men, pioneers with great courage, are belittled and misunderstood. Someday the world will appreciate and partly understand my genius. Like Van Gogh and Da Vinci, the name of Nick Bockwinkel will be synonymous with genius."

THE VERDICT

In all his future title defenses, Bockwinkel must defend his belt. Disqualification would mean a loss of his belt. That is the price he must pay.



Nick Bockwinkel purposely disqualifies himself to retain his AWA title, according to the charges of Verne Gagne. His response: "Of course my wrestling style seems peculiar to others. They are ignorant fools."



BOB BACKLUND

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by KEN PATERA)

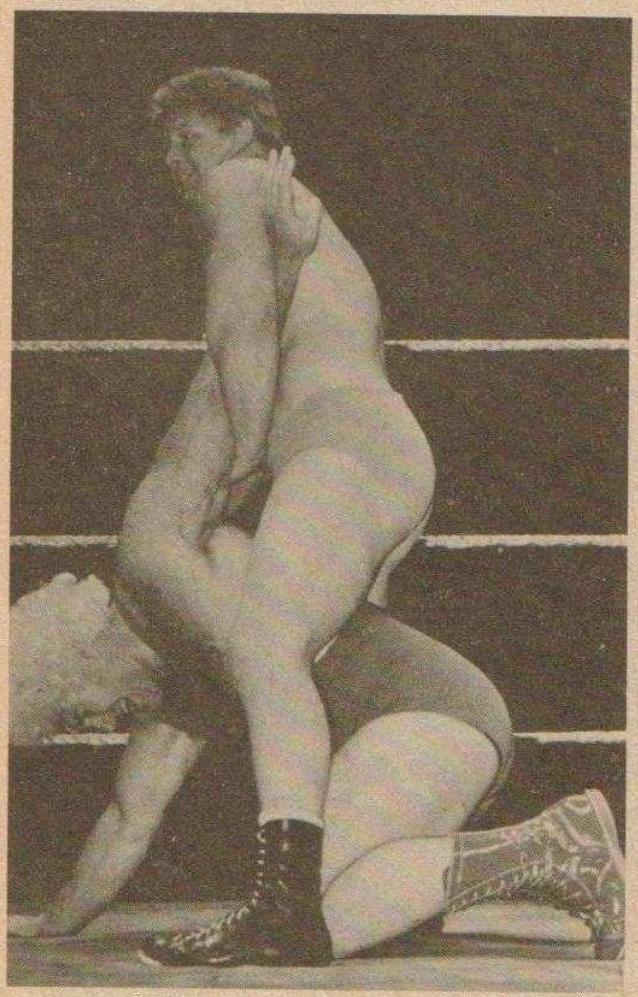
On many occasions, Bob Backlund paid WWF referees large sums of money, in some instances in excess of $1,000, to disregard his wrestling rulebreaking. Eyewitness Ken Patera swore an affidavit attesting to one specific instance when Backlund paid referee Jack Lotz $3,000 prior to the scheduled bout between Backlund and Patera.

HIS DEFENSE

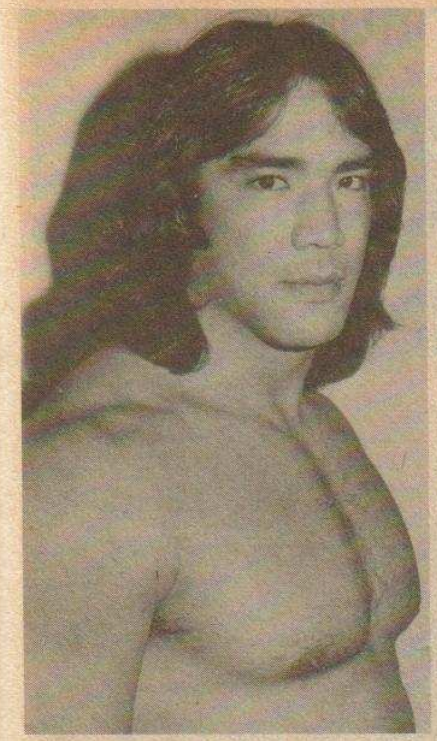
"I have never ever paid anyone, whether it be a referee or what, to help me. I don't want to sound arrogant, but I don't need the help. Especially against people like Ken Patera. I pride myself on ethics. I'm glad I made it to the top without stepping on people or cheating or lying or paying people off. I'm sorry I sound so hard, but whoever accuses me must be very sick and very jealous of my success. I don't know what else to say."

THE VERDICT (Final decision by King and Apter)

A man's integrity is at stake. Without actual proof, either a photograph or unbiased opinion, no action should be taken against Backlund at this time.



Ken Patera charges that Bob Backlund pays off referees to ignore his rulebreaking tactics. "I don't want to sound arrogant," the WWF champion says, "but I don't need the help."



RICK STEAMBOAT

THE CHARGES (BROUGHT by JIMMY SNUKA)

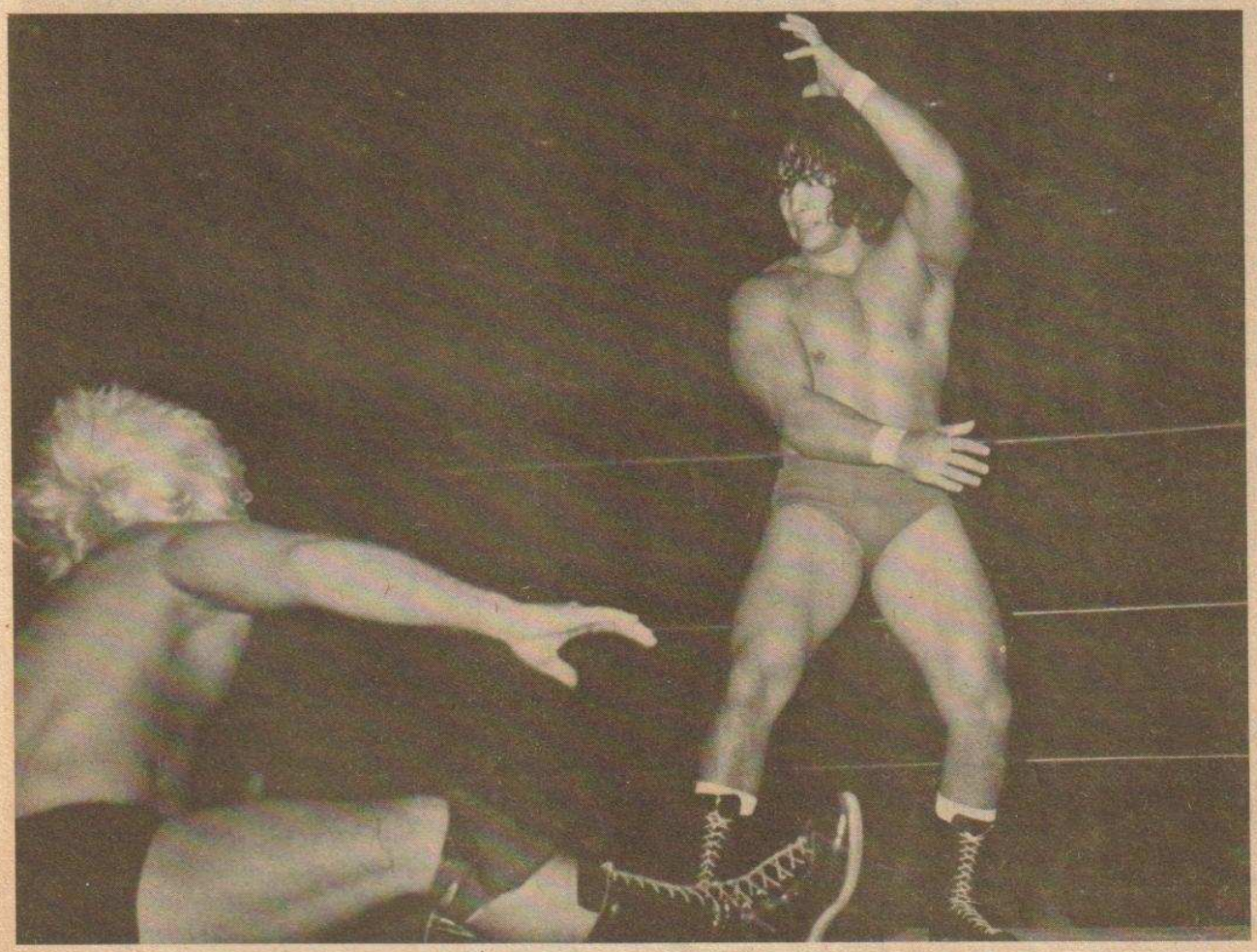
Rick Steamboat is an illegal alien from Hawaii who must be deported under the immigration laws of this country. Aided by local fans, Steamboat remains in this country illegally. Additionally, Steamboat repeatedly uses illegal Kung-Fu tactics. Within the squared circle, only wrestling maneuvers can be permitted. Otherwise, complete chaos reigns and the likes of a Rick Steamboat gains an unfair advantage, not based on pure wrestling abilities.

HIS DEFENSE

"First off, I am an American citizen and I'll whip the stuffing out of any jerk who says I'm not. Case closed. In case Mr. Snuka doesn't know, Hawaii is part of the United States. As for using illegal Kung-Fu moves, I merely blend some of the Oriental arts into my wrestling style. I borrow from every self-defense art and would never use a pure Kung-Fu maneuver."

THE VERDICT

Referees are impowered to disqualify Steamboat should he use a pure Kung-Fu maneuver.



Rick Steamboat uses illegal Kung-Fu tactics, according to charges brought by Jimmy Snuka. "I borrow from every self-defense art and would never use a pure Kung-Fu maneuver," Steamboat responds.

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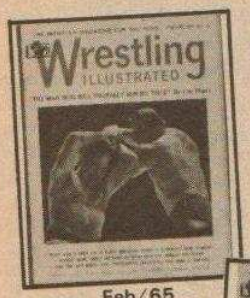
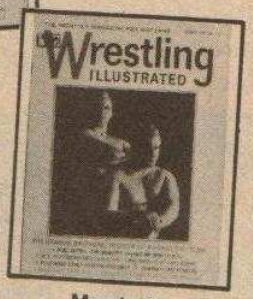


Feb/65
PEPPER GOMEZ

Pinups are listed under each issue.



March/65
ARGENTINA APOLLO

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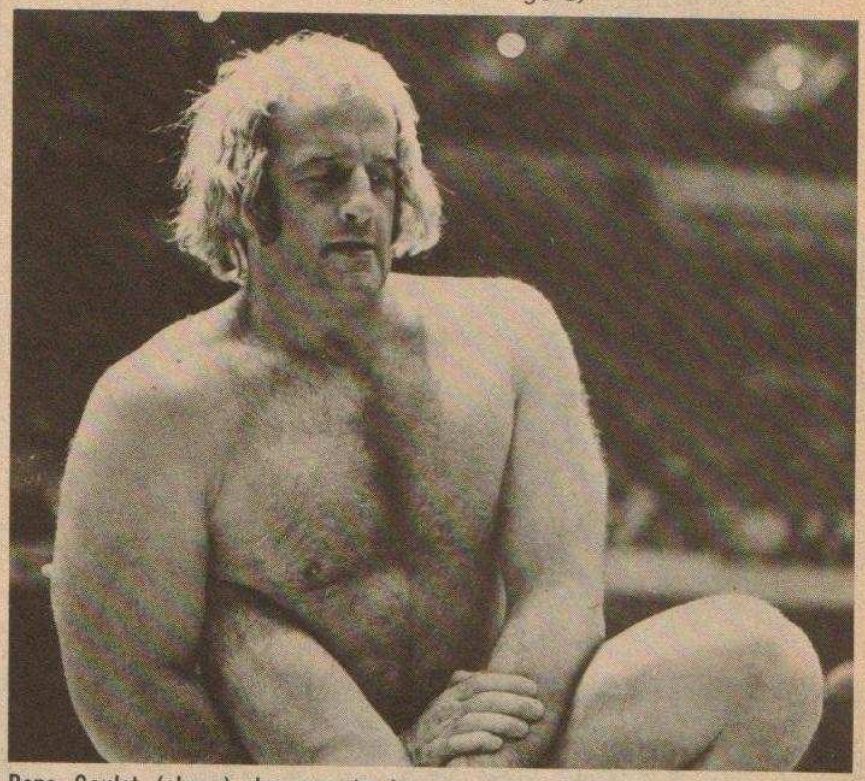
FAN FORUM

(Continued from Page 8)



Rene Goulet (above) deserves to be ranked in the top 10, according to reader Naomi Childress. Eric Gonzalez fears the increasing power of Sir Oliver Humperdink (right).

GOULET'S THE BEST

Rene Goulet should be in the top 10 WWF ratings list because he is popular, tries hard, and is in top shape. He's the best wrestler I've ever seen.

Take the example of a match between Goulet and Ken Patera. Goulet was trying his hardest, not breaking the rules and was doing great but made a wrong move which Patera capitalized on. I just don't think you give this great wrestler enough credit and shower too many stories and attention on lesser talents who have no feel for the sport and constantly break the rules.

What about giving an honest, hard-working guy like Goulet a break?

NAOMI CHILDRESS
Marlton, NY

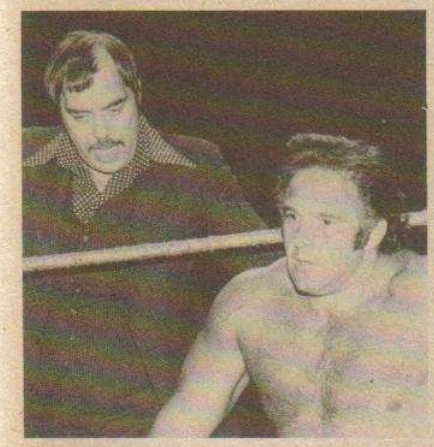
DESTROY HUMPERDINK'S HOUSE

Dusty Rhodes, Bugsy McGraw, Manny Fernandez, The Briscos and other Florida wrestling greats must destroy the House of Humperdink. That fat slob and his loonies are out to destroy every wrestler in Florida.

Recently, I saw a match in which Don Muraco gave newcomer Barry Windham a piledriver outside the ring. In another match, after Mr. Florida polished off Ted Marshall, Super Destroyer, Nikolai Volkoff, and Fat Lard Humperdink viciously attacked Mr. Florida. Luckily good 'ol Bugsy McGraw came and beat the daylights out of all three.

So Dusty and Company, you must destroy the House of Humperdink before they destroy one of you. We know you can do it.

ERIC GONZALEZ
Matawan, NJ



Reader George McKay does not trust Gary Hart (above with Mark Lewin) and would like to see him run out of Texas.

DON'T TRUST GARY HART

I think Gary Hart is trying to pull the wool over the eyes of Texas wrestling fans. First off, he tried to cheat and deceive Mark Lewin, one of the greatest wrestlers around. Next I think he's going to use and abuse terrific wrestlers like Gino Hernandez and Johnny Valiant.

I don't trust Hart because he's out for his end and will toss aside anyone who doesn't serve his evil purpose. I think he would be thrown out of the state.

GEORGE McKAY
Houston, TX ☐

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- ☐ 1975 ANNUAL #13
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BRUISER

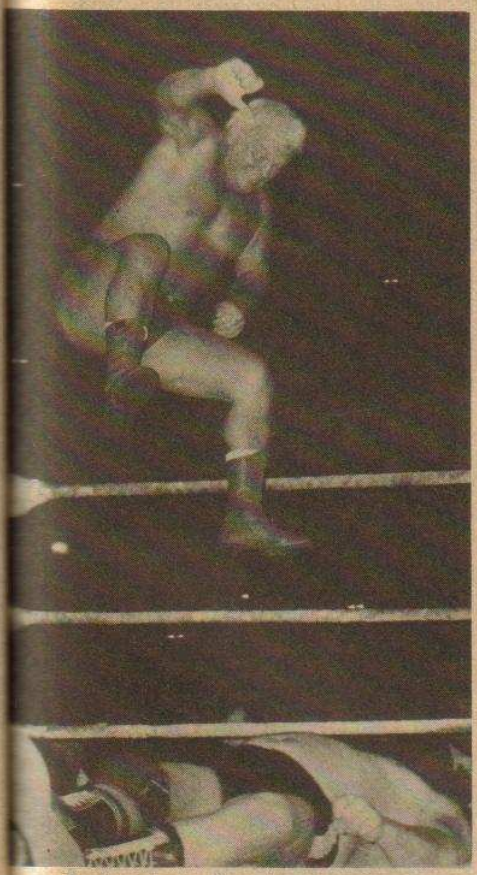
(Continued from Page 10)

Bruiser poses with two of his young fans at a March of Dimes telethon in Indianapolis. According to Hunter, women are attracted to kind, sensitive men like Bruiser.

moving as he wants—when he wants. Watching him overwhelm a foe is to be thrilled by his lumbering magnificence. In the words of the poet, "A terrible beauty is born."

When Bruiser is on the attack, watch the women in the arena. They shout with a fury that is particular to Bruiser. He releases something in the soul of every woman. Honest women know that what he releases is a primitive, overwhelming attraction. Women who can't face this lie to themselves by saying, "I was just excited by the match."

At the same time, every woman knows Bruiser can be gentle. He's tough, but without the boastful swagger of some others. He doesn't have to brag. He knows. It's that confidence that allows a man to be gentle. He wouldn't be afraid to send flowers or offer sympathy when you need it most. He can be kind because he doesn't have a reputation to protect. His reputation is beyond harm.



Bruiser leaps from the top rope upon a prone Harley Race. Women love to see Bruiser on the offensive, according to Hunter.

Bruiser can also be trusted, which is very attractive to any woman. He won't flatter you to see if he can fool you. What he says is what he means. You could tell Bruiser your innermost thoughts and know he'd never betray them. This is a man who could be trusted with love.

A man once said Bruiser's face couldn't win love from his mother. Only a woman could understand the beauty of Bruiser's face. Each line, each scar is part of a tapestry that

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

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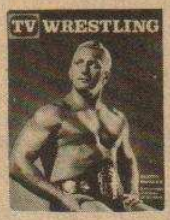

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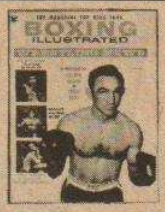

In November 1958 Stanley Weston launched BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS, which established an entirely new concept in the field of boxing and wrestling magazines. They consisted of about 65 percent boxing and 35 percent wrestling in content of the finest writing and photographs ever published. Most of the very rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale in almost 20 years, and they are among the most highly prized Collector's Issues of all time.

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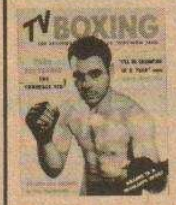
TV BOXING



To meet the public's growing hunger for up-to-the-minute information generated by regular boxing matches shown on the new television medium, Stanley Weston created a new magazine in 1953 to meet the demands. TV BOXING was unique in every way, and while its life's span was less than two years, it established itself as a milestone in the field of boxing magazines. The extremely rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale since 1954.

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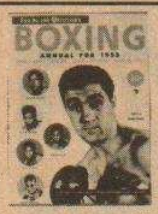

This cherished collector's issue consisted of 100 pages of seemingly endless photographs, statistics and complete records of the leading fighters of the day: Marciano, Robinson, Gavilan, DeMarco, Carter, Saddler, Moore. The list goes on and on. And well over 100 great pictures, some in a glowing red tint. We guarantee that this fabulous 1953 Boxing Annual will turn back the clock and make you feel like you are living in those times; thrilling to the unforgettable performances of some of the greatest fighters who ever lived. This was the first Boxing Annual ever published, and to this day it still retains its title: The Best of All Time—The Champion of Champions! **$50**

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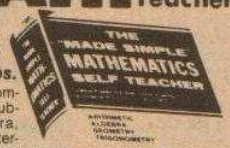

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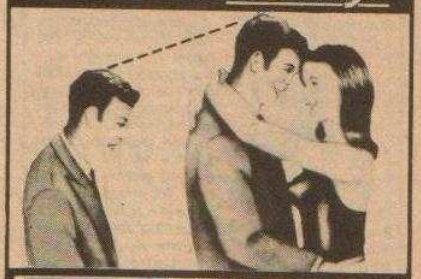

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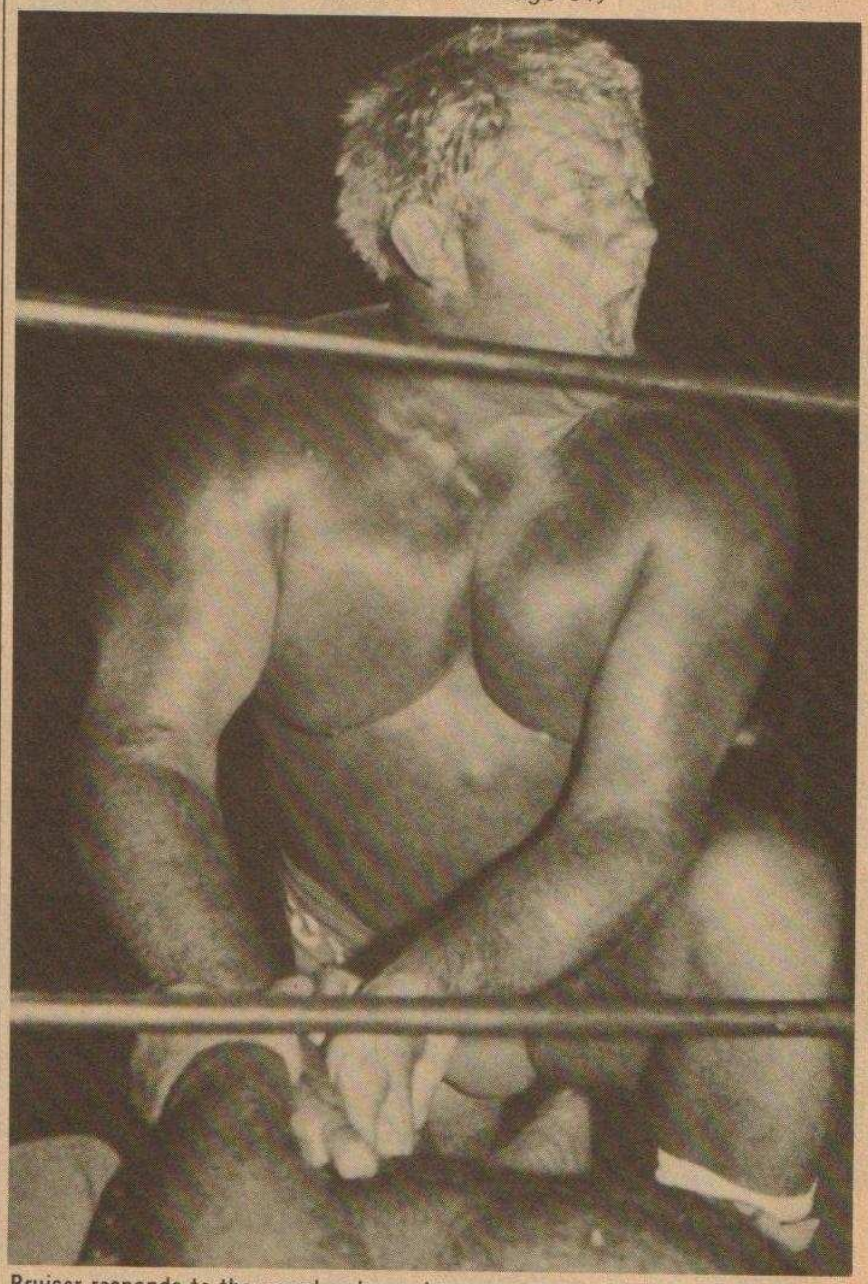
BRUISER

(Continued from Page 51)



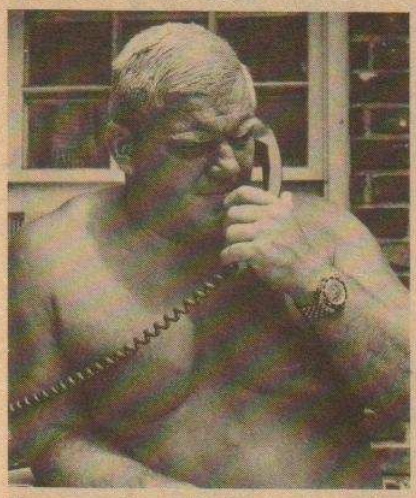
Bruiser responds to the crowd as he works over an opponent. According to Hunter, Bruiser's most loyal support comes from the women in the crowd. Bruiser, she writes, is a very sexy man.

reveals the man's soul. Perhaps if there was less of a man behind that face, there would be no beauty. Yet, the force of Bruiser's personality commands his face to be beautiful, again like Charles Bronson or Lee Marvin.

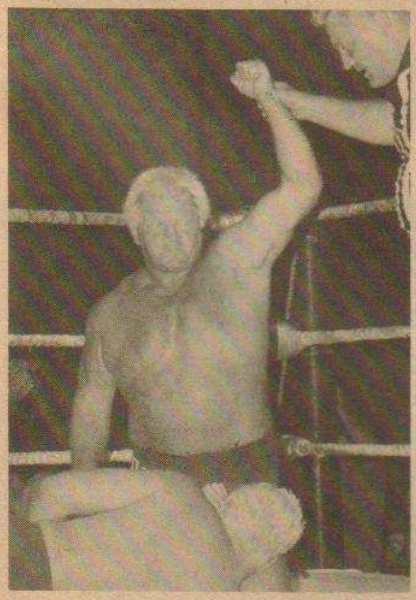
There is a reason most women are afraid of admitting their attraction to Bruiser. While female fans can admire wrestling's pretty boys and then dismiss them, Bruiser commands consideration. As good wine will spoil the taste of cheap wine, Bruiser makes the pretty boys seem superficial and inconsequential. The glamorous musclemen come and go. Bruiser remains splendid and triumphant.

Success is always sexy, which explains why wealthy businessmen are surrounded by beautiful women. There is no

wrestler more successful than Bruiser. Each match is his to control. He may not be a world champion, but a belt doesn't make a man. Every time Bruiser enters a ring, he's a champion in his own universe.



Always confident, Bruiser books another match against a top opponent (above) and has his hands raised victoriously (below).



I know most people think of Bruiser as a tough guy who's as ugly as he is mean. Many women can't understand why they *have* to attend his matches. If someone asked them if Bruiser was sexy, they'd reply, "Are you nuts?"

Yet, they keep going back to see Bruiser. And when they leave, they feel something very unique and special. The dynamic majestsy of Bruiser has awed them once again! □

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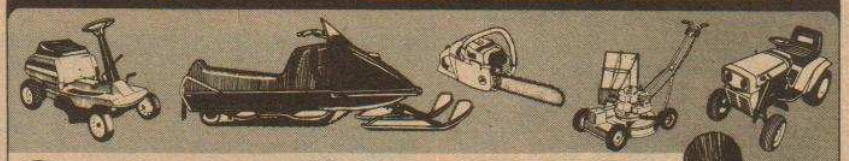

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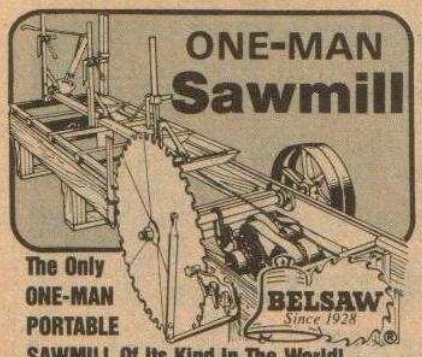

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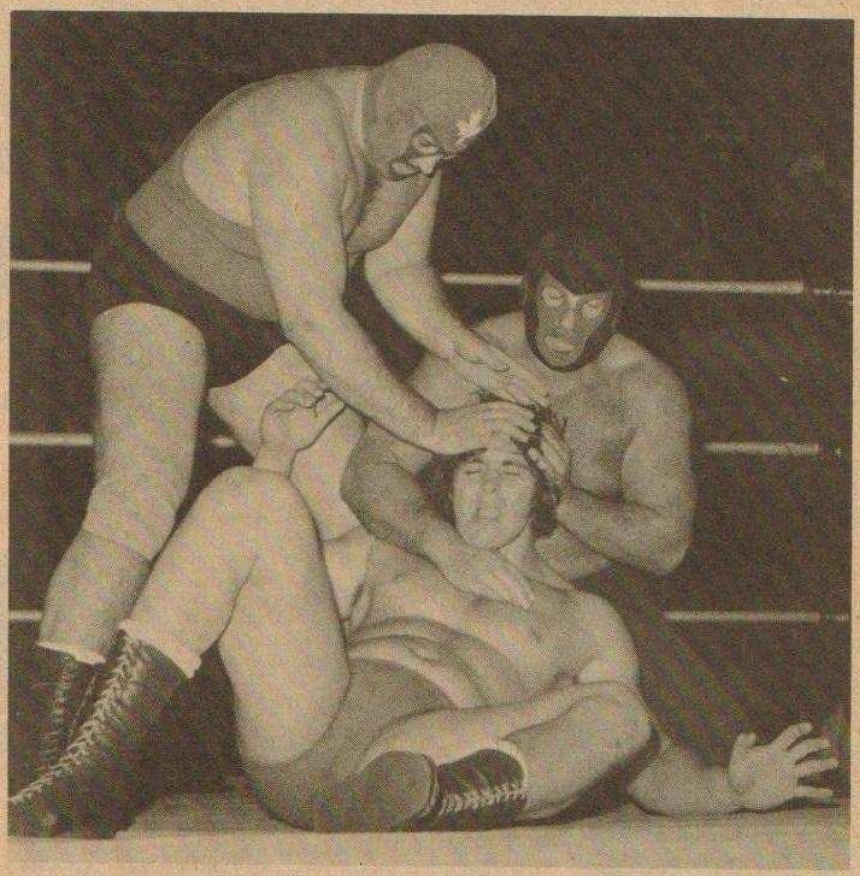
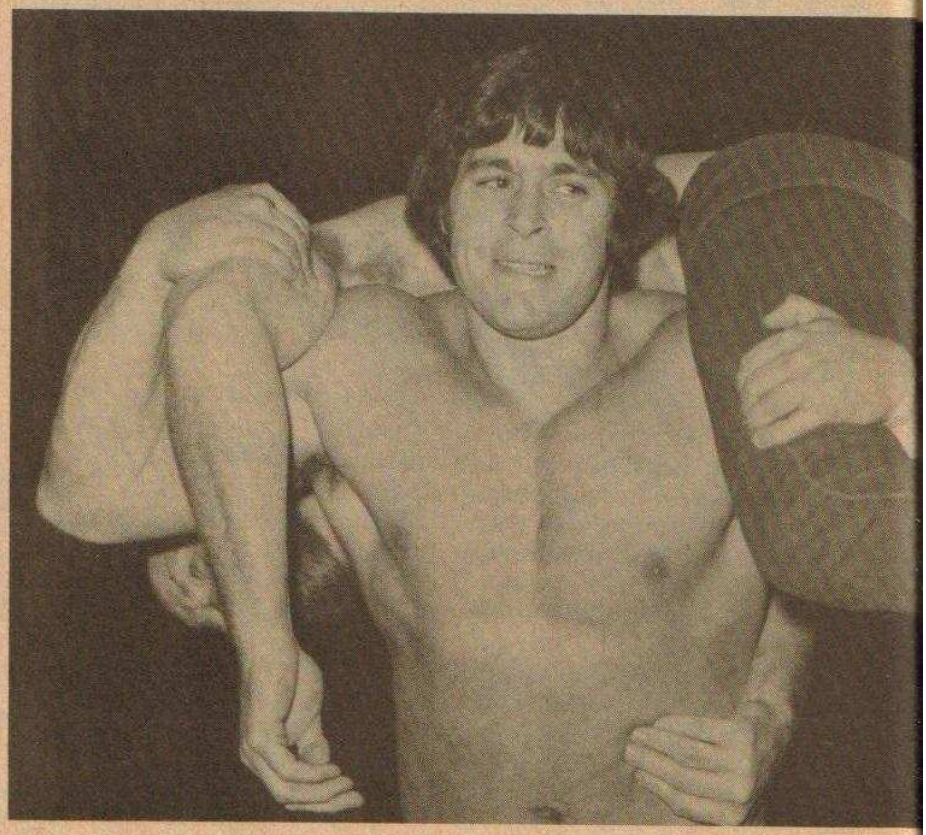
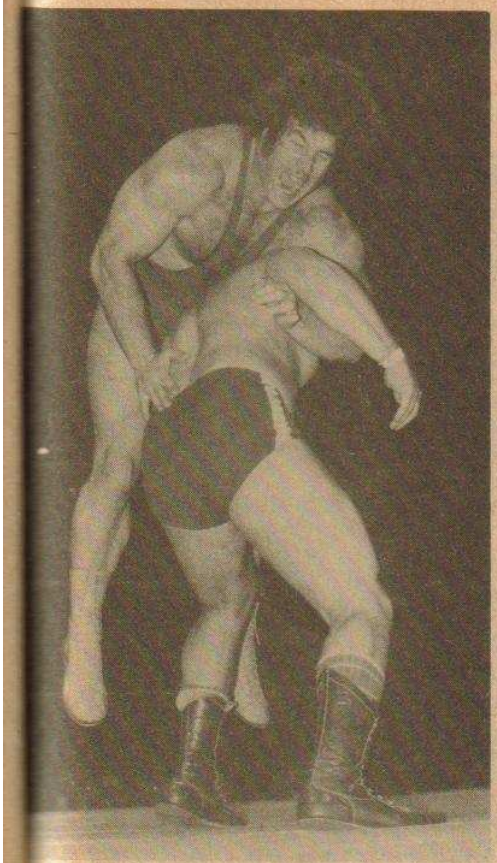
DINO BRAVO

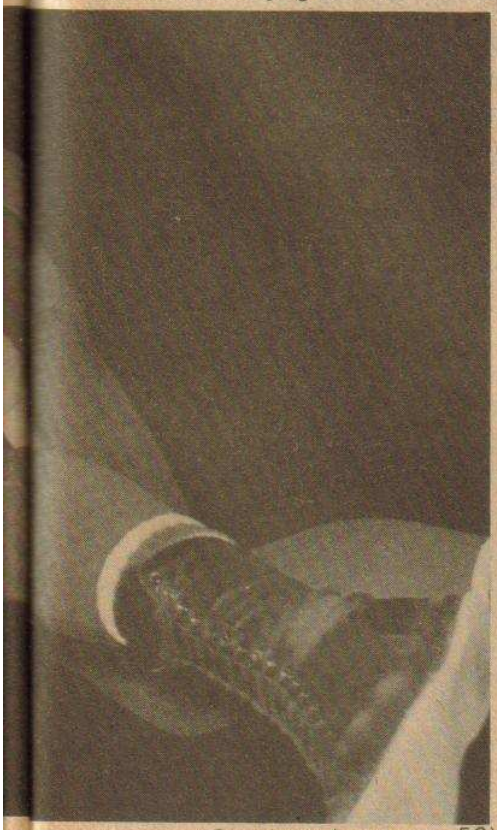
(Continued from Page 21)







Opposite left: Bravo is double-teamed by The Canadian and Doctor Death. Above: Dino's shoulder-block knocks the wind out of Ken Patera. Below: Dino's opponent takes flying lessons.



(Continued on page 56)

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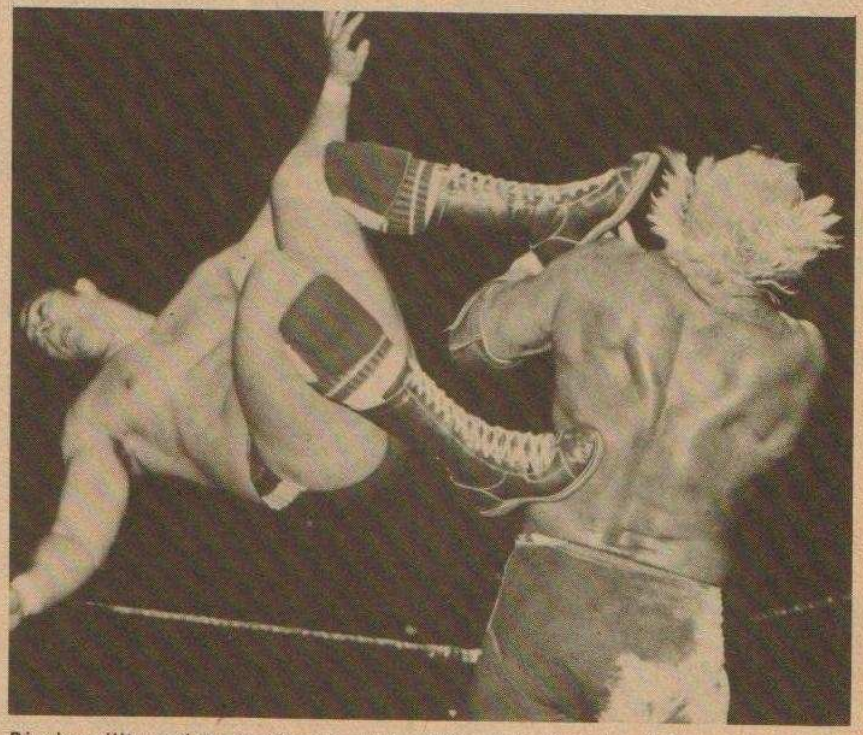
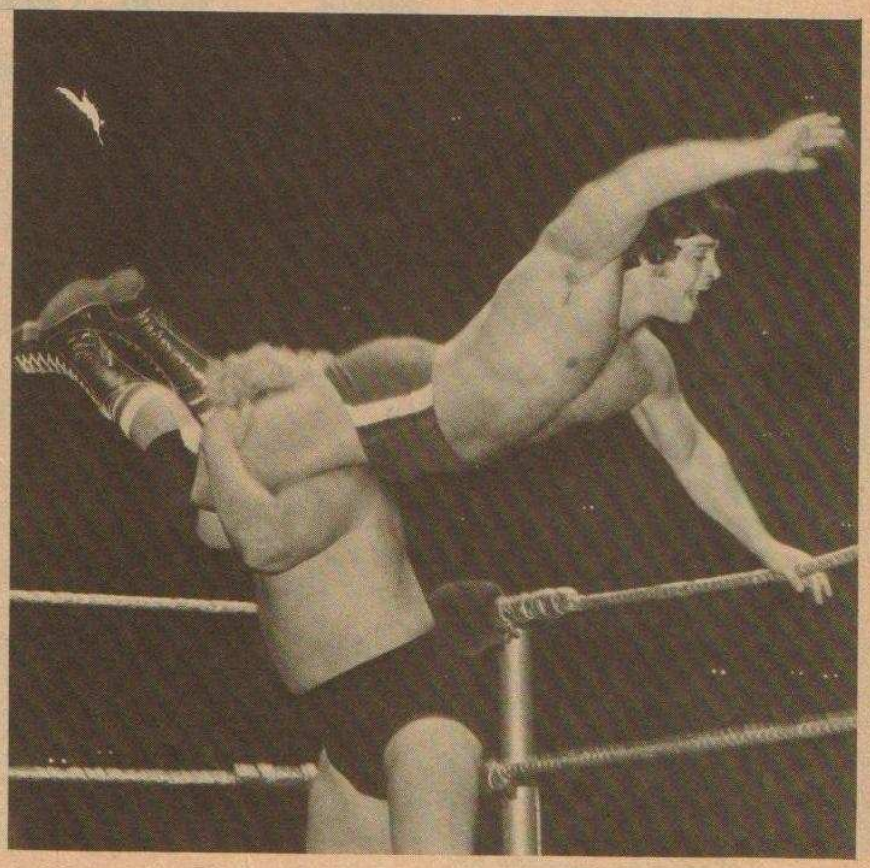
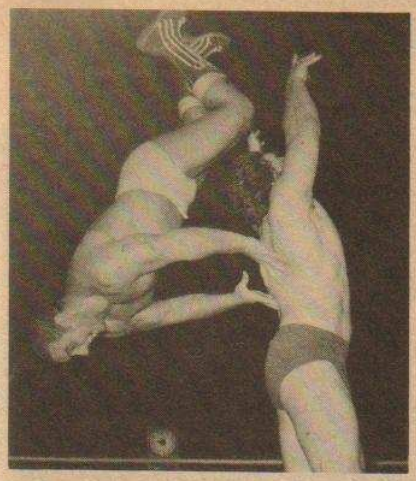
DINO BRAVO

(Continued from Page 55)

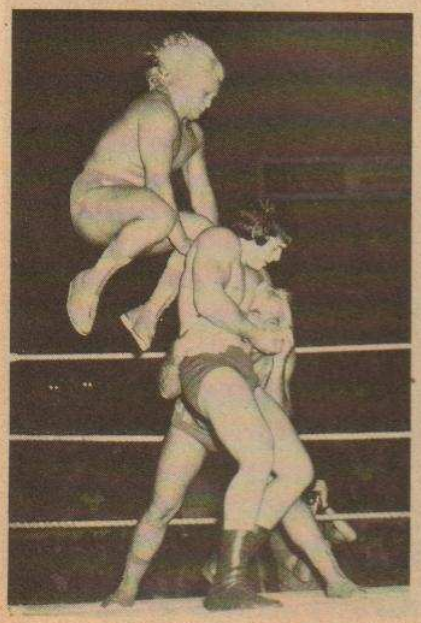


Dino's agility and tremendous leaping ability make him one of the most dynamic young wrestlers in the world. Above: Superstar Graham is sent reeling from a Bravo dropkick. Below: Dino balances himself with the ropes and twists The Lumberjack to the canvas.





Top: Dino's backdrop brings Tony Rocco crashing to the mat. Above: Always conscious of his fans, Bravo solicits opinions as to what to do to the Spiderman. Below: Dale Robert leaps from the top turnbuckle to free partner Gerry Brown from Bravo's headlock.



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DINO BRAVO

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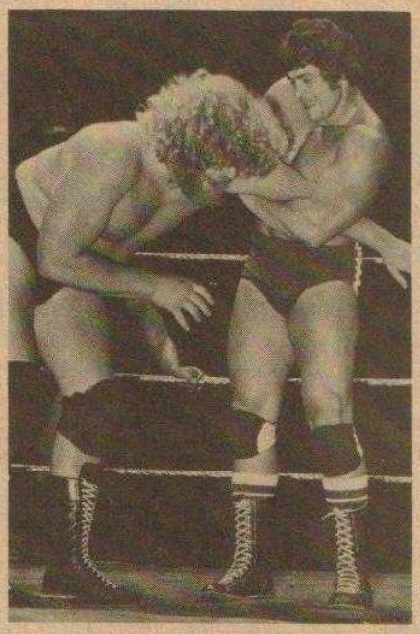
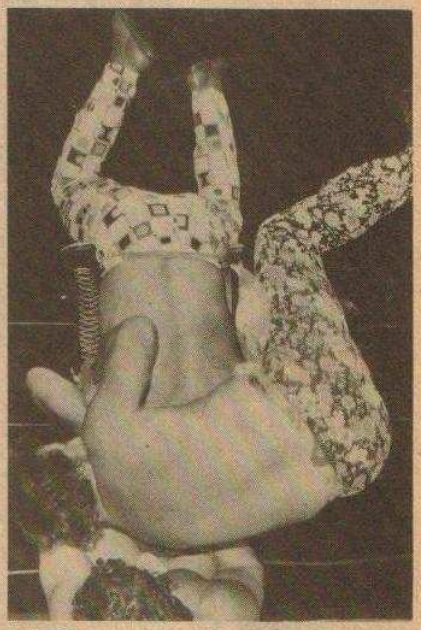
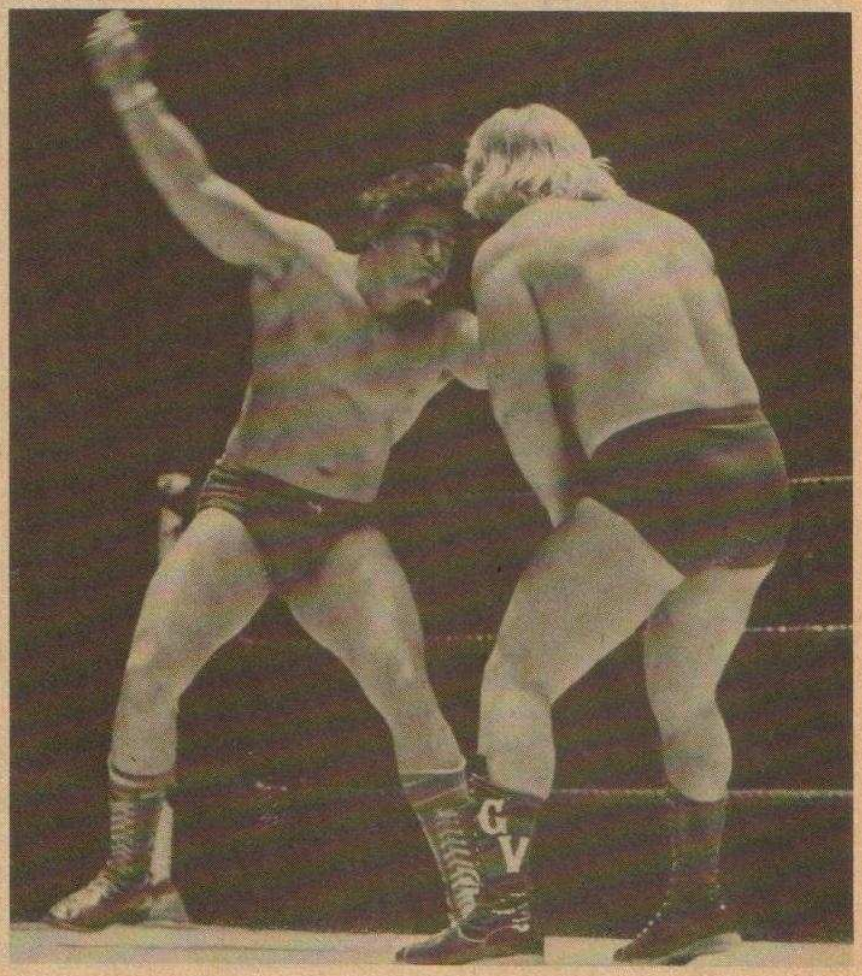




Though he is in high demand across the country, Bravo has set his sights at the AWA title for now. Above left: Dino works on Thor the Viking's left arm. Above right: Dino double monkeyflips the Love Brothers. Below: Bravo fires an overhand right at Greg Valentine.



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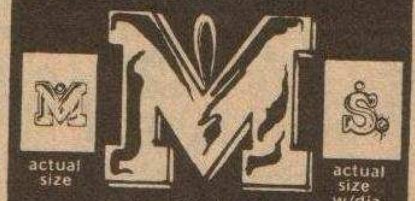

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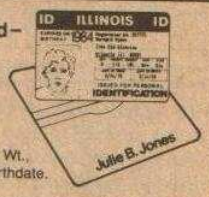

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ANN CASEY

(Continued from Page 25)

been blown from her gall bladder.

Ann was kept in the intensive care unit for quite sometime. She underwent numerous blood transfusions to keep her alive. Twice, while they were operating on her, she was given up for dead! Yet the doctors refused to give in.

At one time during surgery there was no heartbeat or blood pressure. Her parents had been called to her bedside. She wasn't expected to live.

But she did live. And one of the reasons she pulled through is because she's a professional athlete. Because of her profession Ann neither drinks or smokes. And doctors told her she would never have recovered had she not had such a strong constitution and competitive desire, which triggered her will to live.

After she passed the crisis stage Ann was transferred to the University of Alabama Medical Center for further treatment. To this day she carries two of the five bullets in her body.

Just to survive such an encounter would have been enough for most women. But not for Ann Casey. "I'm going to wrestle again," she told her startled friends.

Some said she'd never make it. But they didn't reckon with the gritty determination of this green-eyed tigress.

Almost as soon as she got out of the hospital, Ann went to work. Day after day she trained, slowly at first, but quickly picking up her pace. At times she drove herself beyond endurance. Friends such as Sue Green would make it a point to drop in at the gym and help Ann with her training sessions. She was like a woman possessed. And with good reason.

It's hard for a woman like Ann Casey to not be in the limelight!

Ann had superstar written all over her from the day she wrestled her first match. The combination of wrestling skill and sensual beauty made her an immediate and big favorite. Commonly acknowledged as the most beautiful and sexy female wrestler, she's been known as the "Miss Body Beautiful" of wrestling. Everywhere she went she had star billing.

But Ann had other things going for her as well. Could she wrestle! Early in her career she won the Mississippi State title from the very capable Sara Lee. That's when fans first found out about Ann's courage. During that match she was thrown out of the ring, landed on some chairs, broke two ribs, and still came back to take the title. The former Oklahoma farm girl was big news after that.

Ann, half Irish, one quarter French and one quarter Cherokee Indian, is a terror during a match. "I'm Irish on my father's side," she says. "I guess that accounts for my temper. The Cherokee brings out my dark features and maybe the French for sex appeal." Ann, 5-9 and 150 pounds, measures 38-24-36!

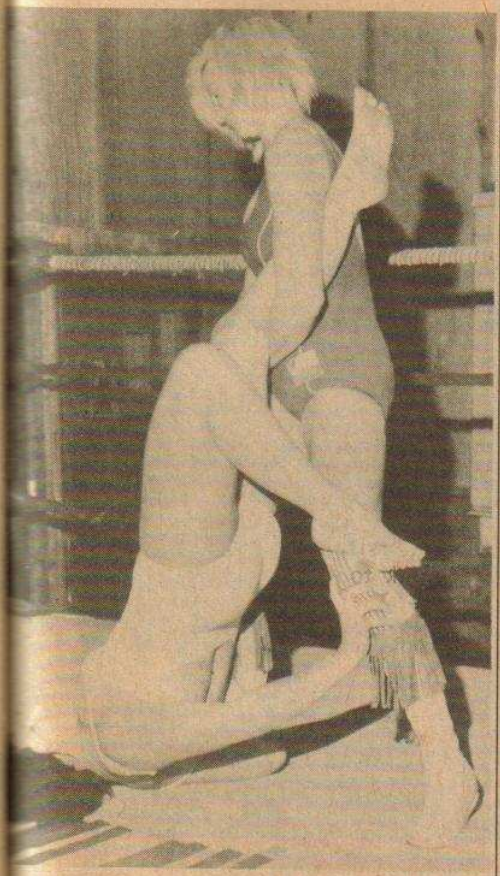
After taking the Mississippi title, it wasn't long before Ann advanced to the Southern States crown. She was on the threshold of a title bout against Fabulous Moolah when the shooting took place.

Once she finished training Ann embarked on a long winning streak. Those who'd seen her since the injury said she looked better than ever. Before long she'd annexed the U.S. title and, as this is written, again stands at the threshold of Moolah's title.

If Hollywood was writing the Ann Casey story there's no doubt they'd have her whip Moolah. The story would end with Ann holding the belt aloft. But Ann's story is incredible enough even if she doen't go on to take Moolah's crown.

Of course there's bitterness towards the person who shot her. But more than the five bullets that wound up in her body, Ann remembers the one that didn't

As she was driving away, with these five bullets already in her, the gunman pegged another shot at the rear of the car. "The last shot, which was aimed at the back of my head, shot the back window out of my car. The bullet wound up hitting the metal post which supports the



When Ann and Sue train it's hard to tell it isn't a real match. They really work hard.

headrest. Only that piece of metal kept the bullet from going through the headrest and into my brain. It still makes chills run up and down my spine when I think about it."

The driving force for the real story behind Ann Casey's dramatic comeback came through a simple request by Ann. She asked us to tell all her fans throughout the country that she was coming back. When told the fans would want to know why she seemingly "retired" at the height of her career, Ann agreed to divulge the details of her absence to this magazine.

And what an inspirational story it turned out to be!

"You know," Ann said thoughtfully, "sometimes when I'm riding alone in the dawn of an early morning and I see the beautiful sunrise, I realize that I'm really here, still here to see and enjoy living out the rest of my life, and it makes me feel so thankful."

Ann Casey should know that her thousands of fans all over the world are just as thankful to have her back—alive and well—and wrestling! □

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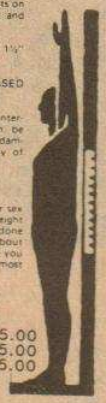

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DAWN SHINES

(Continued from Page 18)

Above: Though Early is down, she manages to ward off the charging Maria Laverne late in the match. Below: Early has Maria caught in a flying head scissors, a great maneuver.

demand to watch her wrestle.

While her fame is growing in leaps and bounds, most fans know little about Early Dawn other than her beauty and ability. Her past and ambitions have remained a mystery. As she stands on the brink of world-wide fame, it's about time the fans learned more about her.

"I've been so involved with perfecting my craft," Early explains, "I haven't really had time to take my reputation into consideration. I haven't tried to be mysterious; I just never thought people really wanted to know about me. I'm not used to being a celebrity. It takes time for a person to realize her responsibilities to the public.

"Actually," Early explains with an impish grin, "I wish my past was more interesting. It's the average story of a young girl, an only child, who grew up to be a tomboy and wanted to become a professional wrestler. From the moment I saw my first match, I knew I had found the career for me. I kept observing the best of the women wrestlers, learning from them and becoming more and more thrilled with the sport.

"When I got old enough, I immediately enrolled in a school for women wrestlers. What an education I received! It was brutally hard work, and wreaked havoc on my social life, but I had no choice. It was work I had to go through, punishment I had to endure. I saw a lot of girls quit because it was too much work.

"I wanted it enough to stay. When I graduated from that school, I knew I had what it takes to make it. Through the school, I came to the attention of a Texas promoter. He took it from there.

"I got a few matches and the fans

An overanxious Early is unable to toss wily Maria. Instead of having Maria in trouble, Early is now close to defeat.

seemed to like me. I don't believe in luck, no professional athlete can afford to, so I must have had the skill to win. After a couple of victories, the fans took notice of me. As things look now, my prospects for the future are very exciting."

Many people agree with Early's predictions, including Maria Laverne.

"To say Early is the most accomplished rookie in years," Maria declares, "doesn't do the girl justice. She's special in ways I haven't seen in years. Watch how easily she executes her maneuvers. It's astonishing to see such deftness in one so young.

"I almost envy her the future. The only limits she has are the ones she sets herself. I can't see any other girl wrestler stopping her.

"There are many skilled women who never make it because they lack the determination to overcome the tough obstacles. Early won't suffer that fate. Her attitude equals her ability. Most people think a woman is unfeminine to put her career before everything else. These people aren't professional wrestlers. Early is ready to make the sacrifices necessary to succeed."

Watching Early's supple body go through a strenuous training session, one appreciates what Maria was saying. It's a brutal career for a pretty girl who could succeed in many fields. It requires punishing labor and great sacrifice. Seeing her face betray the exhaustion of this work-out makes one wonder why she does it.

The wonder is dispelled when one sees Early Dawn in a wrestling match. Her enjoyment of her skills, a thrill non-athletes can only dream about, is worth any sacrifice. □

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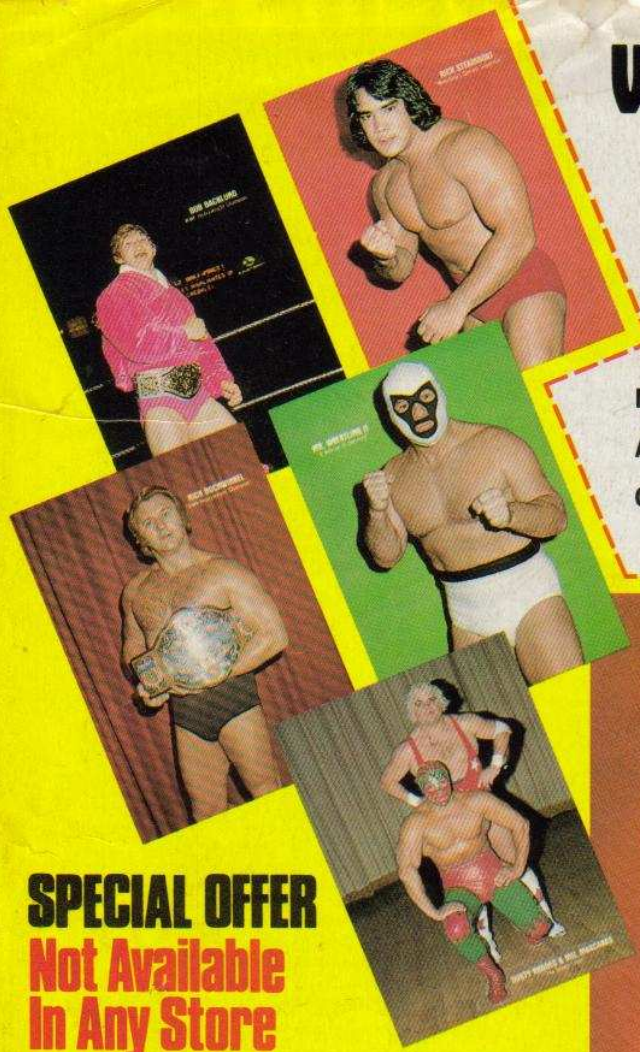

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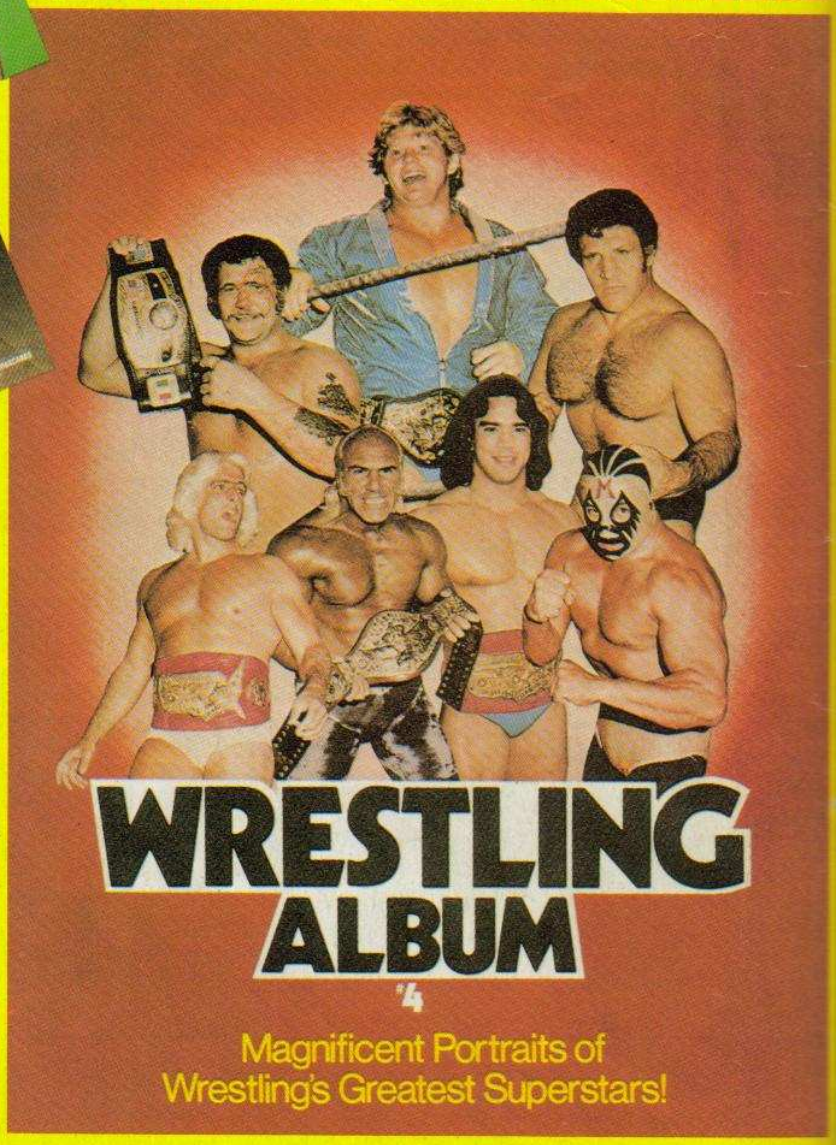

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